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Full commercial product WORTH £60 CygnusEd

the fastest Amiga text editor in the world

AMIGA COMPUTING ● November 1995 ● Issue 92 ● Draco

November 1995 AMIGA

Works with WB1.3, 1Mb

CygnusEd

Double software package

CygnusEd – *the complete commercial text editor*

Mand2000 demo *(Requires WB2.04, 1Mb)* *– stunning Mandelbrot program*

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IFFMaster – MUI IFF chunk manipulator

November 1995 AMIGA

Works with WB2.04, 1Mb

Graphics Grandslam!

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FontDT – Amiga font DataType

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The Amiga at the heart of a monster

PLUS

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- States of the nation
- Hypernauts
- Making money out of games
- Flicker fixer
- Zip drive

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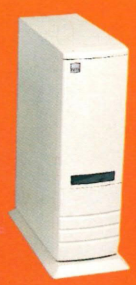
amiga 4000

a4000 tower new



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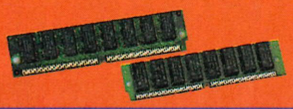

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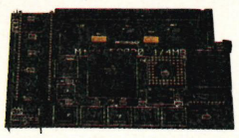

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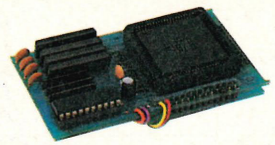

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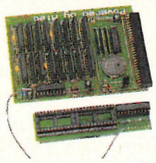

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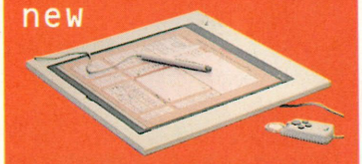

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Contents

SYSTEM

The essential guide to Amiga gaming

System On-line 88
We bring you up to date with all the recent goings on in the Amiga games world

Preview: Odyssey 92
Audiogenic take a departure from their usual sports sims and try their hand at platformers

Preview: Hollywood Hustler 102
The seedy underworld of gambling unfolds in this poker sim

Budgets 104
Money too tight to mention? Our cheapies can solve your problems

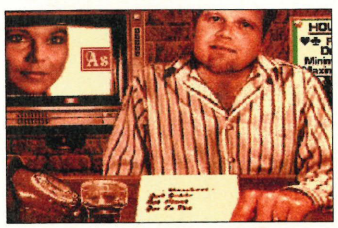
Small tips 106
We solve all your gaming problems with a selection of hints and tips

Preview: Virtual Karting 108
We check out life in the fast lane with OTM's pacey driving game

Preview: Leading Lap 110
Racing mania again this month with Kellion's forthcoming polygon racer

Game Reviews

Club and Country 94
Approach Trainer 96
Turbo Trax 98



Hollywood Hustler – see page 102

Club and Country see page 94

Reviews

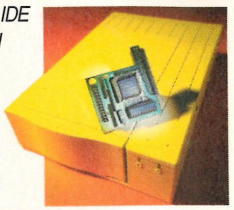
Essential Science 24
Another 10 out of 10 extravaganza. Education with an Amiga angle

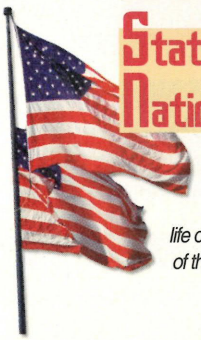
Flicker Fixer 26
24-bit flicker fixing – now anyone can side-step the idiosyncracies of AGA

Zip Drive 28
The biggest thing in Amiga data storage since the CD-ROM explosion

Amiga Online 30
Adam Phillips explores the Internet from the Amiga angle

Dataflyer 36
Transform your IDE interface into full blown SCSI in seconds





States of the Nation 44
Jason Compton investigates Amiga life on the other side of the pond

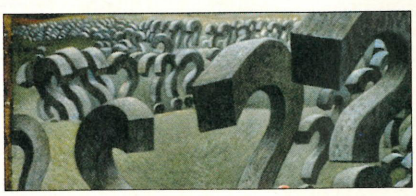
Datachrome 49
Now any Amiga application can take advantage of datatypes

Wacom 75
Grace under pressure with the ultimate Amiga graphics tablets

CD Write 77
Customise your CD collection with this impressive software add-on

Features

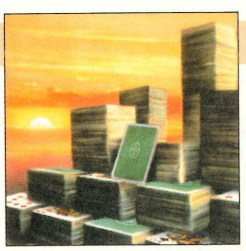
In the Hot Seat 32
Amiga Technologies on the spot with some hard hitting questions and answers



Assembler 64
The ubiquitous Mr Overaa just keeps coding...

Essential Software 66
The definitive guide to serious Amiga software

Money Playing Games 79
Discover how to get your big break in the games industry, whether you know how to program or not



Next issue on sale 19 October

COVER STORY

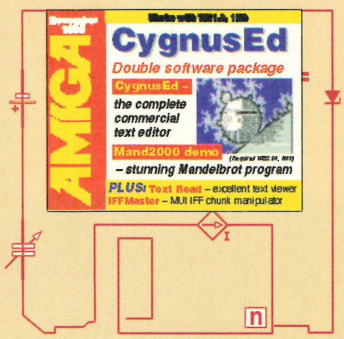
The Amiga at the heart of a monster

Paul Austin fires up the nest step in Amiga evolution.

See page 38

The Coverdisks

Page 18



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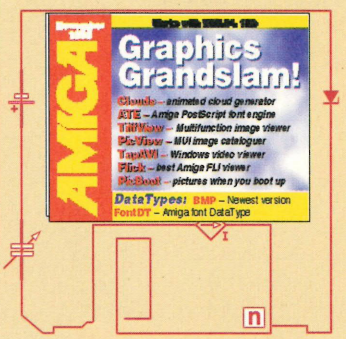

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Regulars

Comment 8

Tina Hackett puts the knife in when it comes to games programming

News 14

The secret's out for the new Amiga bundles

Disk Offer 22

Don't settle for half measures! Invest a few pounds and get the lot

ESP 52

Flaming prose and hard hitting opinions in the letters page

Public Sector 54

The PD and shareware keeps rolling in

ACAS 59

Hardware, software, problems, solutions. The ACAS column

AMIGA GUIDE

119 **ARexx**
Paul Overaa exposes himself in the latest stage of the ARexx column

129 **Video**
The do's and don'ts for videographers who enjoy the third dimension

127 **Music**
Paul Overaa plugs in a mini mixer that could be ideal for any Amiga muso

121 **Comms**
The inside story on squeezing the best from Internet search engines

125 **Amos**
Phil South explains how to add a designer touch to an arcade classic

123 **Publishing**
The inside story on structured clip art from the impressario of DTP

Amiga Medical 113
Ecological disk labels and the low down on handling assigns

Amiga 3D 115
A step-by-step guide to creating a commercial CD cover image

2D Amiga art 115
In a new tutorial Steve White goes over the ground rules

Subscriptions

Turn to page 82...

...for details of *Amiga Computing's* subscription offers this month

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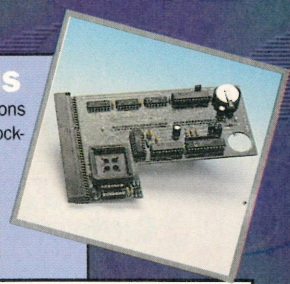

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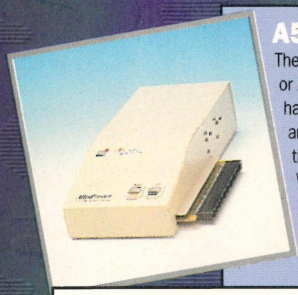

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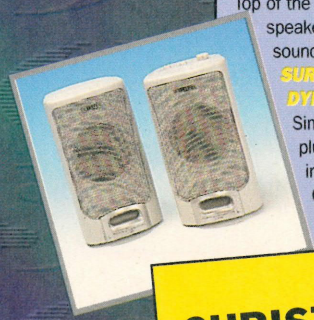

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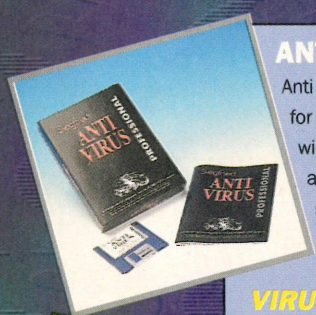

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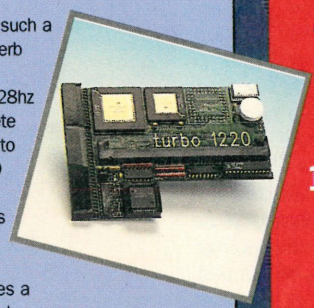

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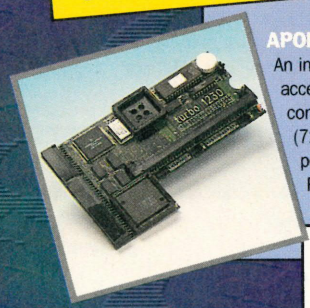

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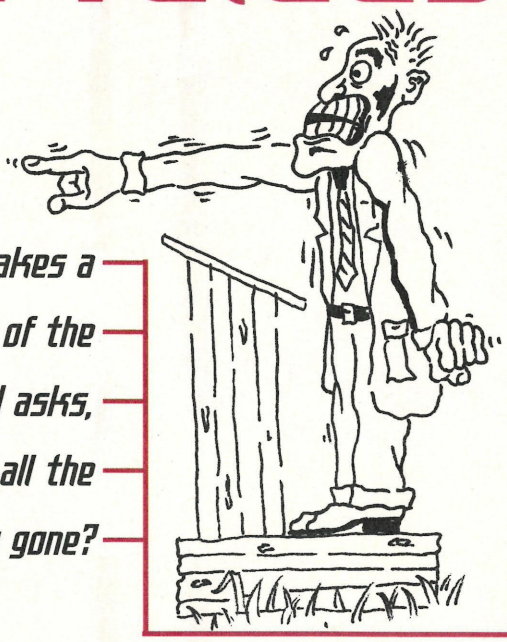
Please release me...

Tina Hackett takes a look at the state of the games market and asks, where has all the originality gone?



You've probably already noticed, but the Amiga games scene is looking bleak to say the least. Releases are becoming few and far between, and it's a worrying trend for both Amiga owners and Escom. But what is far more alarming is the drop in quality of these games. And the originality. It's as if developers seem to think Amiga owners are just so *desperate* for games that they will gratefully lap up any old rubbish that is chucked in their direction. Graphics seem to have taken a step back in terms of quality, and it's little wonder that the average Amiga gamesplayer is left looking envious at some of the high-tech realism offered by the PC. Titles like Ruffian, Akira and Angst all look like games from the early '80s and do nothing but harm the image of the Amiga.

Graphics aren't the only factor on trial here either – originality seems to have been swept to one side as well. Football management games are churned out by the dozen, and okay, the good ones do sell well, but they really are becoming a very tested, uninspired old formula that has left the industry looking weary. Other genres need serious revamping too. Dull platformers, dull racing games and dull beat-'em-ups are all categories covered countless times, many with little or no imagination.

Looking at the back catalogue of Amiga games, you realise just how bad things have got. A few years, even months ago, the Amiga owner could choose from Triple A products like Flashback, Cannon Fodder or Theme Park. But now it's a different story and bar maybe four or five, there aren't too many titles on the release schedule that will excite your average gamesplayer.

It's not just a problem isolated to the Amiga though. PC games are falling into the dangerous trap of formulaic 'interactive movies' and while their graphics do astound, the playability has all the depth of a shallow puddle. So, things aren't all that rosy there either. But what explanation can there be for all this? Surely developers can't have just run out of ideas? If so why – there's a great big world out there. Get up from your computers, go and explore, be inspired.

Anyway, it's not the PC we should be concerned with here. It's the state of the Amiga market. Developers we could once rely on for original games have taken their talents elsewhere. Names such as LucasArts, Delphine and Bullfrog are sadly lacking from our shelves. Others like Sensible Software are soon to follow, and Escom are going to have to take responsibility for making sure there are good, *quality* developers out there working on original titles that the Amiga owner deserves.

And take the Doom clone phenomenon, for example. This is a good illustration of the nervous bandwagon-jumping that is also going on in the industry at the moment. It's as though the software companies don't have the guts to come up with their own products – they see a trend and follow it. What they should be trying to do is thinking of something of their own, rather than this attitude of trying to outdo each other. Why should Amiga owners want to go and buy a game that is trying to be a copy of one on the PC anyway. We don't *want* second rate PC titles, we want our own, original, quality games and we need our own software that will make the PC owner jealous of us for a change.

So I'll leave you with these final thoughts. One is for Escom, who have to ensure there are going to be good, original developers out there that will produce high quality products. The other is for the software companies themselves who must avoid this 'trend-following' approach and earn back some respect. Graphics need to feel like they belong in the next decade not the last, and the balance between presentation and playability must also be considered (remember Rise of the Robots and Microcosm?)

And the last and most important thought is for you, the Amiga owners. Don't give them the opportunity. Don't buy the sub-standard products, wait until there are some worthwhile titles there that really do deserve your time and money. AC

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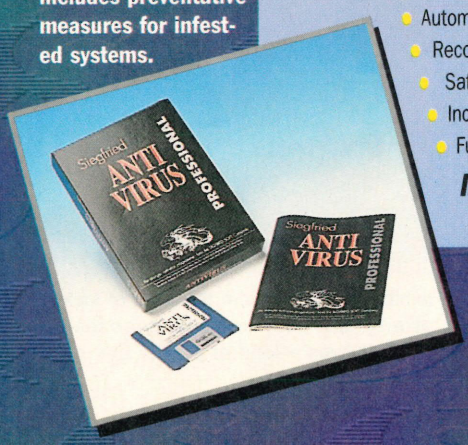

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NEWS

By Gareth Lofthouse

Amiga bundle revealed

Last minute news from Amiga Technologies revealed that the software to be bundled with the A1200 and 4000T will include the newest versions of some of the most acclaimed productivity packages available for the Amiga.

As reported in our press conference feature in this issue, there will be a standard A1200 package costing £399 and a A1200 plus hard drive package costing £499. Up to now, however, the contents of the software pack that will be bundled with the Amigas has been a mystery.

The standard pack will come with three applications from Digita: Wordworth 4SE, a brand new version of the award-winning wordprocessor, Datastore v.1.1. (a database) and Organiser v1.1, their recently released computerised filofax.

It will also include Turbocalc v3.5, an as yet unreleased version of Schtztruhe's spreadsheet program. On the artistic side, an updated version of Cloanto's highly regarded Personal Paint software – version 6.4 – will be accompanied by another Amiga showcase program, Photogenics 1.1 from Almathera. Despite the productivity focus of the package, games players are also catered for with the inclusion of Pinball Mania, a new title by 21st Century, and Whizz from Microvalue Flair.

The HD package will include the same bundle of software plus Scala MM300, the leading multimedia authoring package. The same bundle is currently set to ship with the 4000T as well, although there's a possibility that Scala's MM300 will be replaced by the upgrade, MM400.

Amiga Technologies clearly hope a strong bundle will put pay to complaints about the Amiga's pricing. Jonathan Anderson, MD of Amiga Technologies UK, claimed that the standard A1200 pack's software had a combined average street value of £497, while adding Scala for the HD version could save buyers as much as £677.

Anderson also said he was particularly pleased by their success in securing such up-to-date versions of each software product. He commented: "As far as I know, Wordworth, Personal Paint and Turbocalc are brand new products which the publishers do not intend to launch until next year."

The only possible bad news is for American users, since this bundle is only confirmed for European distribution. Whether Amigas sold in America will be standalone or have a different software package is still under discussion.

An announcement is also imminent on the identity of the two trade suppliers to be used by Amiga Technologies. According to CTW, the trade newspaper, Amiga Technologies have already appointed Amiga stalwarts SDL, and they are on the verge of signing Leisuresoft up as their other partner.

Tyschtschenko: the Amiga is on time for September

Amigas in America

While Amiga Technologies' plans for the UK are gradually becoming clearer, the strategy for the American market remains less certain. It has been announced, however, that Ed Goff, former US lawyer for Commodore, will be leading the company's US division.

It was made clear at the Heathrow press conference that Amiga Technologies considers the 4000T to have the strongest market in the US, although a smaller allocation of 1200s has been made.

The general manager of Amiga Technologies, Petro Tyschtschenko, revealed that the 4000T motherboards will be produced in the United States near Philadelphia, and computers marked for American distribution will be assembled in the same place.

At the time of going to press, the company was still looking for a North American partner that would be willing to support and invest in their product. We hope to bring our US readers fuller details as they are revealed.

Heathrow press conference

On Wednesday 16 August, Amiga Technologies held a press conference to officially announce the relaunch of the Amiga line of computers in the UK. The day after it was followed by a meeting with developers in which the company's UK strategy was outlined. The main news was the announcement of an A1200 bundle including a 170Mb hard drive priced at £499. For full details read the In The Hot Seat article featured in this issue.

It was also confirmed that the 4000T will initially be without a high density floppy disk drive. The reason given for this was the difficulty in obtaining components following the bankruptcy of the company involved in the production of the drives for the 4000 desktop unit.

Amiga exhibitionist

Following our focus on animators in last month's issue, the Amiga is due to receive another dose of creative talent following the announcement of an exhibition of work by artist Paul Hamilton on 4-28 October.

Named Artificial Eyes, the event will feature dye sublimation prints of the artist's recent Amiga artwork. His pictures were created using Photogenics, Real 3D and DPaint 4. "The name of the exhibition comes from the idea of looking at artificial scenes with, necessarily, artificial eyes – kind of photos that never

Power to accelerate

Power computing have joined the competition offering Amiga users more speed with the announcement of a new line of accelerators. Though the new Falcon range was developed by Macro Systems, Power Computing have bought exclusive distribution rights for everywhere, apart from Benelux and Germany.

Developed for use with the A1200, the first Falcon accelerator will feature an 040 processor – roughly 14 times faster, the same speed as an A4000 – and a single SIMM socket allowing for FastRAM expansion. It will also have a SCSI 3 interface allowing for greater transfer speeds , and the package will include a fan to cool the board.

An 060 version is set to follow which will give the A1200 a blistering performance, but prices on either option are yet to be announced. For more details phone Power Computing on 01234 273000.

The eyes have it

As well as presenting its strategy for the Amiga's relaunch at the Heathrow press conference, Amiga Technologies also unveiled the new virtual reality I-glasses for the first time in the UK.

As reported last month, the Virtual I-glasses are made in America by Virtual i-0, but Escom have exclusive distribution rights for the product in Europe. Newly revealed, however, was the fact that there will be two different models on the market. The virtual reality headsets don't come cheap though. The basic video model that allows users to see computer and film images in 2D and 3D will cost £599, while a PC version including a head-tracker for use with 3D games will cost £899.

Escom stated that the range of applications for the headsets is almost unlimited. At the press conference it was claimed that the makers are already in discussions with film moguls like Steven Spielberg, and they have shown great interest in the technology's potential.

There are also plans to develop a version of the headset for use in dentist's surgeries. Instead of lying with their eyes screwed up in terror, patients will be able to relax watching a film while the dentist drills away at their teeth. Apparently they are already being used in the US for this purpose.

"Our product gives patients an out-of-mouth experience by taking the focus away from what the dentist is doing," said Virtual i-0 President Linden Rhoads. "They enable people to watch movies, educational programming and even play video games while they have their teeth worked on."

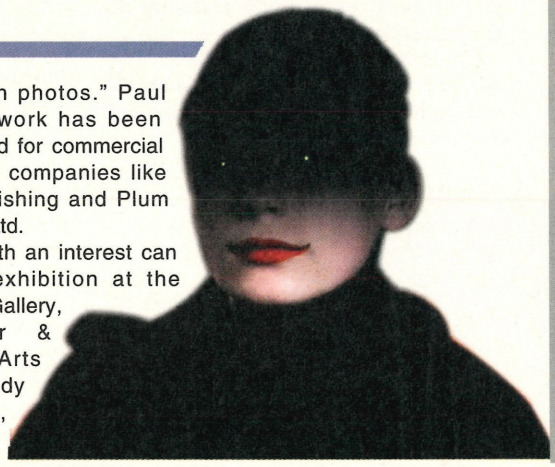
The AT panel went on to reveal that the lightweight headsets made them ideal for the private viewing of erotic movies, but whether this capability will be combined with the dentist's version is currently unclear.

The video version of the glasses will connect to the Amiga's composite output port. As yet, the head-tracker version has no software support on the Amiga, however.

Asked if they planned to sell the product in the UK, major retailers Silica replied that they had not made any decision on the matter. MD John Arundel would not discount the possibility, however. "If it's a product that supports the Amiga then we will certainly be interested in taking it," he commented.

were," Paul explained. "Also on a literal level, I seem to have an obsession with painting over people's eyes when working with photos." Paul Hamilton's work has been commissioned for commercial purposes by companies like Quarto Publishing and Plum Productions Ltd.

Anyone with an interest can go to the exhibition at the Reflections Gallery, the Exeter & Devon Arts Centre, Gandy Street, Exeter.



News briefs

For football fanatics

Football Statistician Professional may sound like another team management game, but it's actually the ultimate football application for use by the home enthusiast and professional club, according to its makers.

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Imagine all the objects

The Imagine user group is running a special offer for readers of *Amiga Computing*. The price of membership has been reduced from £8 to £5 until 2 January 1996, and the first 100 readers to join quoting *Amiga Computing* will get a free disk containing brush maps, objects and other material for use with the Imagine rendering package.

Members can benefit from a wide range of services, according to group founder Spencer Jarvis, including an object and attribute finding service, quarterly newsletters, and unlimited technical support. The group has a library of 2000 objects, 60Mbs of text, 1000 attributes, and hundreds of brush maps available to members.

For more information contact Spencer Jarvis on 01375 670036/0585 102633

Apologies to Active

Active software are owed an apology for an error made in the review of their Zoom CD. The telephone number that should have been given was 01325 352260.

Active also report that further enhancements are being made to the time of going to press.

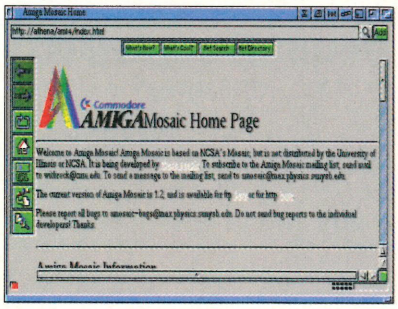
Amigas meet the public

On 26 August to 3 September, Amiga Technologies presented the Amiga to the public for the first time since Commodore's demise 18 months ago at the IFA fair in Berlin. The company bought space in which to present not only the Amigas but also the CD32 in different configurations running various applications.

The event is seen as important by industry commentators concerned that the Amiga's relaunch is not gaining a high enough profile. Petro Tyschtschenko previously announced at a press conference in August that there were no plans to advertise the Amiga until 1996.

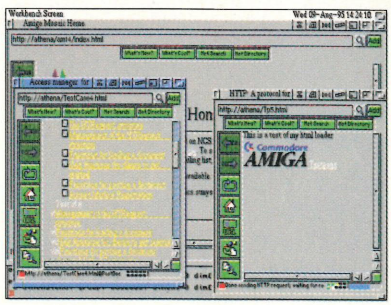
AMIGA

New web navigator



Amiga web users who are tired of hearing about the wonders of the Netscape Internet software will be pleased by the announcement of a more powerful browser designed solely for the Amiga. Designed by the makers of AMosaic, not only does it promise to improve vastly on its predecessor, but it also offers features unavailable on the much vaunted PC/ Mac rival.

A browser is the software that makes navigating the Internet a graphically appealing and user-friendly experience, but up to now Amiga users have had to use the relatively slow AMosaic. Named IBrowse, the new Amiga software is claimed to be up to 30 times faster according to the latest reports from its developers. It will also be packed with advanced features, including the ability to use multiple windows to a greater extent than AMosaic. It will support HTML 1-3 and Netscape commands which will allow for a full viewing of sites previously limited for Amiga owners.



Like Netscape, it will come with a powerful point and click tool bar, but the interface will have the added advantage of being fully configurable which will allow users to customise the package to suit their needs. It will also start up without the need to launch AmiTCP first.

Perhaps the best news of all is that the program is likely to be released as shareware. We hope to feature the program in *Amiga Computing*'s December issue, but in the mean time readers can get further information at the following web site: **http://www.omnipresence.com/ibrowse/**

Knight raises standard

White Knight Technologies is continuing to give high-end Amiga users strong support, with announcements this month of new products and services. Recently appointed as Macrosystem's official UK distributor, they will be selling the Draco digital video system featured as this issue's main story.

In the future, they will also be distributing a new 32-bit version of VLAB motion, the acclaimed Amiga editing card for video. WKT claim it will offer far greater video data transfer rates, lower Jpeg compression ratios and generally far superior picture quality than can be achieved on the current Amiga version.

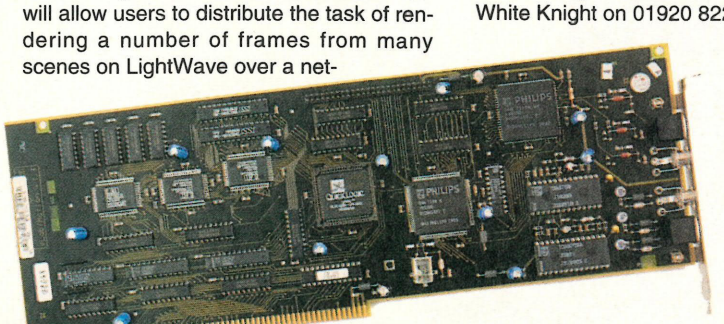
White knight now have a demonstration suite at their offices in Hertfordshire which will allow customers to test out a non-linear video editing system incorporating not only VLAB motion but also the Toccata sound card and the Retina graphics board. Customers who wish to test these products are invited to telephone for an appointment.

They are also offering a new product for serious LightWave users. Named T-Net, it will allow users to distribute the task of rendering a number of frames from many scenes on LightWave over a network of Amigas. Made by Interworks USA, it is designed for use with the maker's ethernet software ELAN-DFS 2 and multiple copies of NewTek's acclaimed rendering package.

Using T-Net, all the machines will share the same scene files, objects and image data, and each machine on the network renders its frames to a shared common location. A single Amiga equipped with either the Broadcast Elite, a PAR card, or VLAB motion can then be used to output the rendered sequences to video tape.

According to WKT, the software's powerful features will allow users to efficiently manage and delegate the distribution of frames across the network. It will be possible to monitor the progress and status of each system on the user's 'render farm' at a glance using a graphic representation of each node showing its current rendering status.

The price is set for £299 for a T-Net with a 5 user license. For further details or to arrange to see a demonstration, call White Knight on 01920 822321.



The all-new 32-bit Vlab Motion, soon to be shipping from MacroSystems

New world order

Another company reasserting its support for the Amiga market is Blittersoft, with the announcement of a number of products to be released in the near future.

Fans of virtual world designers will be pleased to hear World Construction Set 2 is likely to be reviewed in the next issue of *Amiga Computing*. The terrain modeller/animator will use a non-modal interface, allowing users to work in multiple windows to lay out motion paths, adjust colours, and modify ecosystems. The price is set for £119.95.

Blittersoft are also releasing ATAPI.device for £69.95, a product that allows users to attach the extremely cheap ATAPI CD-ROM drives to their A4000s and A4000Ts IDE controller.

With new Picasso II graphic board bundles available with prices ranging from just under £300 upwards, plus the fact that they're making AmiTCP available directly in the UK, Blittersoft are bringing some much needed activity to the Amiga market. For more details call them on 01908 261466.

Amigas for Uganda

Dr Andrew Basden, inventor of the INCA Expert System featured in our September issue, is starting a new initiative to send Amigas to Uganda for educational purposes.

According to Dr Basden , the Amiga is the best machine for the job because it can just be plugged into a TV without requiring a monitor. He is hoping that people with unwanted Amigas or even components will send them in for the appeal. Those with the remnants of an unused A500 at the back of a cupboard somewhere should write to Dr Basden at 24, Penrith Close, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 7ND.

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19.49

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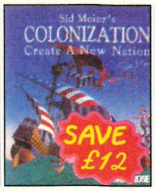

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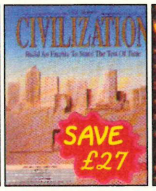

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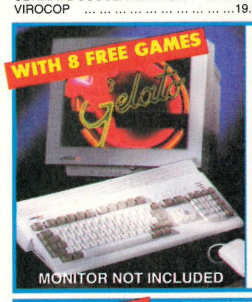

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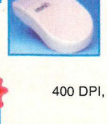

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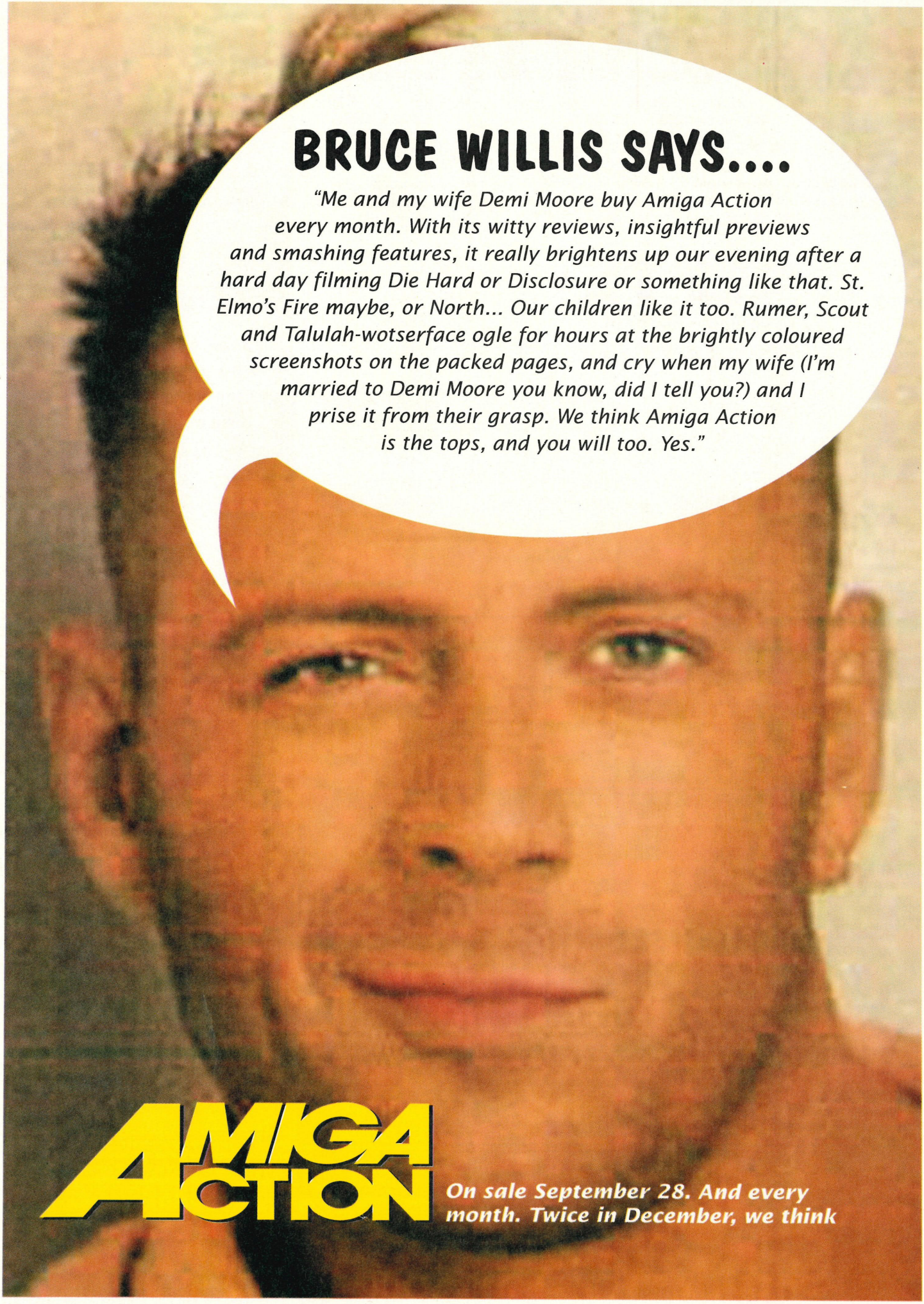
BRUCE WILLIS SAYS....
"Me and my wife Demi Moore buy Amiga Action every month. With its witty reviews, insightful previews and smashing features, it really brightens up our evening after a hard day filming Die Hard or Disclosure or something like that. St. Elmo's Fire maybe, or North... Our children like it too. Rumer, Scout and Talulah-wotserface ogle for hours at the brightly coloured screenshots on the packed pages, and cry when my wife (I'm married to Demi Moore you know, did I tell you?) and I prise it from their grasp. We think Amiga Action is the tops, and you will too. Yes."
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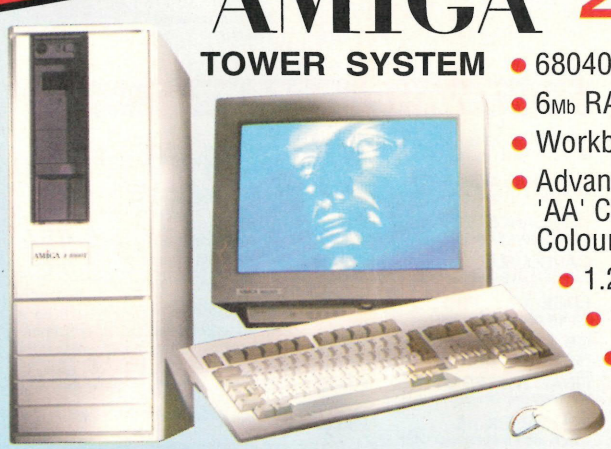

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NEW

SEE PAGE 2 FOR FULL OVERDRIVE RANGE

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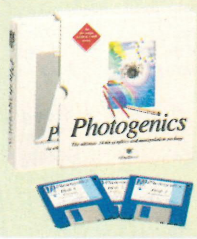
IMAGE MANIPULATION
PHOTOGENICS V1.2
FOR A1200/A4000



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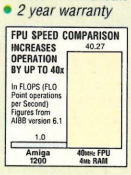

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FOR A600/A1200

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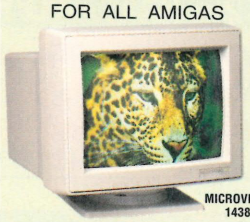

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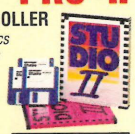

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Allows access to Amiga specific CDs and play CD32 software - HAR 3540

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SEE FEATURE ON PAGE 1

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Ultra Fast 560Mb Hard Disk, plugs onto PCMCIA slot - HAR 3544

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Ultra fast external hard disk. Plugs into PCMCIA slot - interface is twice the speed of the internal one. Can be used along side internal hard drive

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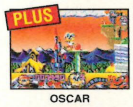
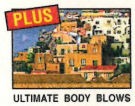


PLUS OSCAR

PLUS PROJECT X



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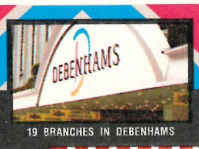

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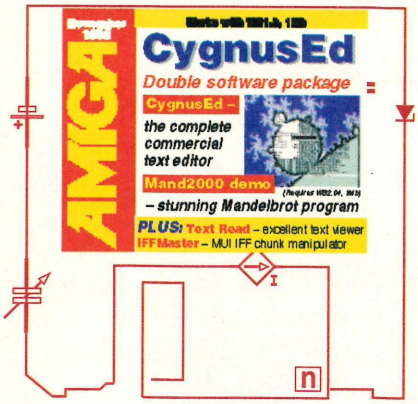
Which computer(s), if any, do you own?

273A

3



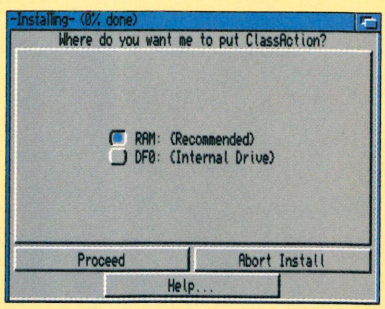
The Cover Ed'able goods

Extracting CoverDisk files

If you have already booted this month's CoverDisks, you may have noticed a slight change to normal. We are now using Commodore's installer utility to try and make extracting the archives as easy as possible for you.

To extract any single archive, simply double-click its icon and follow the on-screen instructions. If you want to quickly extract the program to RAM, select the NOVICE level on the welcome screen and press proceed once on the current screen, and then again on the next. The program can now be found in your RAM disk.

You also have the option of using a floppy disk. If you pick this option make sure you have a blank formatted disk at the ready, and if you only have one disk get ready for lots of disk swapping and a long wait.



The Amiga installer needs to be told where to extract the files to. Simply click on the appropriate destination

CygnusEd

Author: CygnusSoftware
Workbench: 1.3

A good text editor is essential for every Amiga owner. From just being able to alter your user-startup to writing your e-mails, you cannot get away from the need for this essential utility. Let's face it, the standard Ed that comes with Workbench is pretty feeble in both the power and looks department, with Commodore doing a typical good job of ignoring all its own style guides.

CygnusEd purports to be the fastest text editor available for the Amiga, and probably any computer. Once you have tried it I am sure you will agree that whether you are writing a ten line e-mail or need to view a 10,000 line manual, CygnusEd will let you happily jump to any point in the text, read, write and modify the file in a blink of an eye. Even your basic A600 will handle kilobytes of text without breaking into a sweat.

I am sure most of you are quite proficient with using a keyboard and the language of your choice, and with these basic skills you should find CygnusEd a doodle to use and should be able to produce reams of text in no time at all.

As CygnusEd has evolved over the last eight years it has picked up some pretty impressive and very useful features along its way. Potentially one of the most useful or lifesaving functions is the extremely comprehensive undo/redo option. Basically, CygnusEd has an unlimited undo buffer, only restricted by how much memory you want it to be able to use.

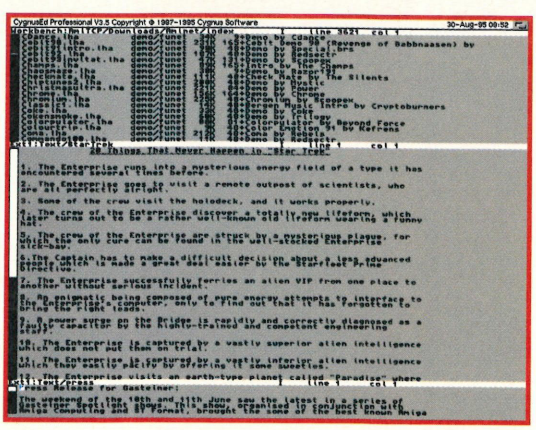
Most editors at the most only allow you to undo/redo the last action or line worth of text. Well there's none of this pussy footing about for CygnusEd. If you have a big enough undo buffer you could delete every line from a text, and then simply by pressing right Amiga u you can watch as the entire text magically reappears line by line in front of your very eyes.

ADJUSTMENTS

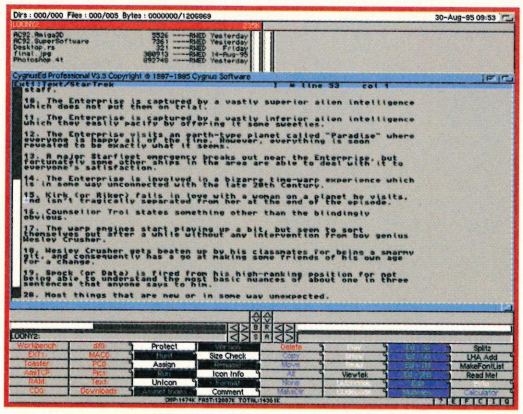
The Environment menu in CygnusEd actually consists of three 'hidden' menus, letting you adjust almost every aspect of the editor – from the typical options of screen size, font type and word wrap to the more unusual ones such as letting you adjust the screen scroll borders and the exact tab positioning.

Another unusual feature is the way CygnusEd handles multiple files. If you choose to open another document the CygnusEd screen will split into two, allowing you to view and edit both at the same time. This is very handy if you need to look at some reference material while doing some writing, and is better than having to resettle with multiple windows.

For all you people out there with Workbench 2 or above you are going to be able to take advantage of CygnusEd's comprehensive ARexx port. Now, most people might be wondering what's the point of an ARexx port on a text editor? Well for starters, any



CygnusEd allows multipal views



Workbench 2 users can open CygnusEd on any public screen

Disks

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Please allow 28 days for delivery

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programmers out there will be able to get CygnusEd to automatically save and compile the current program they are working on, all from the comfort of CygnusEd. If you wanted, you could get it to save off different versions each time you compile.

Possibly of more interest to Joe Bloggs is the fact that CygnusEd has a versatile macro function which lets you record a number of different keystrokes and menu functions which can then be repeated over and over again. What is the point in that? Well, I will tell you. If you have a long list that needs reformatting, why should you have to do the same thing for every line? All you have to do is record a macro, showing what you want to be repeated for each line. Once that is done you can then get CygnusEd to do all the hard work by it repeating the macro for each and every line.

TOTAL SUPPORT

Included with the CygnusEd package are a number of support programs – Ed, MacEd and RecoverCED files. Ed is a small program that can be used to launch the main CygnusEd executable. You do not have to use this to run CED, but if you use it there are a number of advantages. Firstly, it allows you to run CygnusEd in a dormant state, meaning the main CED window will not appear. Then, when you want to use CED it will appear straight away. Using Ed, it is also possible to load a file directly into a copy CED that is already up and running.

MacEd has nothing what so ever to do with Macs, you will be glad to know. It lets you create and modify CygnusEd's macros away from the main program.

Finally, RecoverCED files is a handy little program which, if your machine crashes while you are working on a document, will try its best to recover those files. It is not guaranteed 100 per cent, but any chance of getting lost files back is better than none at all.

If you are having problems with any of CygnusEd's functions then there is an extremely comprehensive Amiga Guide document detailing every aspect of CygnusEd. Other than that, the best way of finding out about CygnusEd's functions is just to try out all of those lovely menu items. ➤

Mand2000

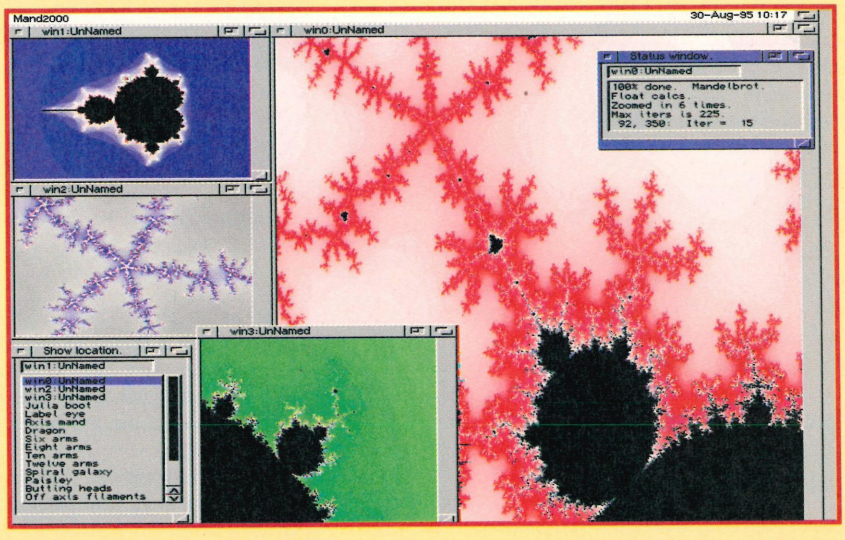
Author: Cygnus Software
Workbench: 2.04

Mand2000 has to be the best fractal exploration program available for the Amiga computer. It provides a super simple interface combined with a stupifyingly fast screen update.

Exploring a fractal in Mand2000 is simply a matter of double-clicking where you want to go and you will instantly zoom into the area you chose. If you want to decrease the zoom amount just press the D key, and you zoom straight out. Also, if you want to move to a slightly different position, simply click on the Mandelbrot and slide the area to where you want it.

One of the impressive parts of Mand2000 is the window approach it takes. You can literally have dozens of separate fractal windows open all showing different parts of the Mandelbrot set – you can even have a separate window open showing what part of the Mandelbrot you are currently looking at. The program is not restricted to only the Mandelbrots as it will also allow you to explore the Julia set.

If you own an AGA machine, Mand2000 lets you access a bewildering number of screen modes, supporting Ham8 and Ham6 screens resolutions all the way up to 1280x512 – allowing every window you open to have its own separate palette.



Probably the best Mandelbrot explorer in the world – even works on graphics cards

The real problem with trying to explore fractals is that the deeper you go into them, the longer it takes to produce each screen. Mand2000 give you a number of options to allow you to preview or speed up the screen drawing process. Firstly, you can change the number of iterations the computer will perform – decreasing the number of iterations increases the screen speed, but reduces detail.

The other option you can use is the number of passes Mand2000 will make to draw the screen. The effect is that on the first pass the picture is highly pixelated, with each successive pass adding more detail to the screen. If you only want a rough idea of what you are looking at this is an excellent feature because you can interrupt the drawing process and keep on moving around the fractal.

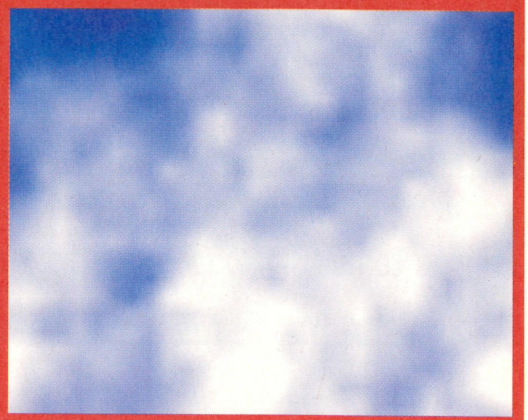
Clouds

Author: Krzysztof Kobus
Workbench: 2.04

To quote the author: "Clouds is the first program on the Amiga platform giving you visual modelling and realistic animation of the turbulent motion of clouds. It is based on spectral synthesis method. The method employs a variety of intuitive parameters describing natural properties of clouds phenomena, as cloudiness, contrast, wind direction, strength of wind, and turbulent changes.

"Such a wide range of controls allows a creative animator to generate all kinds of clouds, gases, mists and so forth. Resulting images can then be used as backgrounds, textures in 3-D programs, or alpha channel information – to mention just a few possibilities."

Blimey, sounds pretty impressive does it not? Basically, Clouds will produce beautifully animated clouds that will roll across your screen with such majesty, you will be instantly relaxed. Well, I feel better already.



Animate clouds with Clouds

PicBoot

Author: Magnus Holmgren
Workbench: 2.04

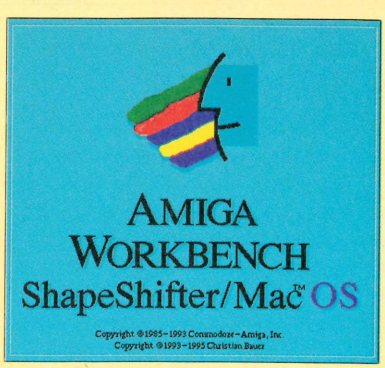
Every one must have seen the Windoze startup picture, with the little blocks all evaporating away. It may seem a trivial point but it's quite nice to have some sort of picture to look at while you wait for Workbench to load.

Commodore may not have seen a reason for including some sort of boot picture, but from all the small utilities and the number of boot pictures that pop up on the Aminet, most of us seem to want one. A boot picture that is.

PicBoot was one of the earliest boot picture utilities I can remember. This latest version provides you with load of options. For starters, it can handle both GIF and IFF files, and the routine that unpacks them is extremely fast – so the time it takes to boot up your computer is not changed too much.

If you use the xpk compression libraries, PicBoot will even handle IFFs that have been compressed. It is also possible to fade in and out your chosen picture, which looks quite flash, and will even fade in Workbench if you so wish. AGA owners will also have the benefit of a silky smooth 24-bit fade.

All you people with a collection of different possible boot pictures will be pleased to know that PicBoot can use a script file to randomly choose one of the pictures. So you will never get bored with the same picture being flicked up every time you boot your machine.



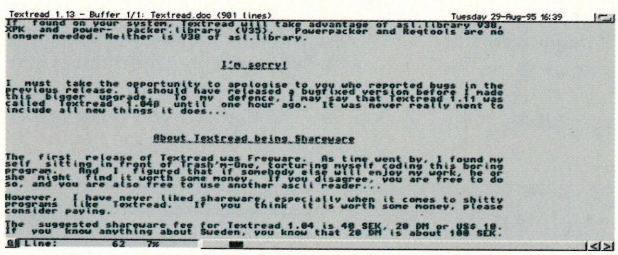
Banish that blank boot screen and add a little colour to your life with BootPic

Text Read

Author: Martin Blom
Workbench: 2.04

Slagging off the standard Commodore utilities is always a favourite hobby of mine and it has to be said that 'more' is pretty dire. What you need is a decent text reader. Well lo and behold, it looks like Martin Blom had the same idea.

Text Read is a powerful style guide compliant text reader and will happily handle xpk'ed and power packer files. Some of the nice features of Text Read are the search facility, jump to line/percentage, and a handy scroll bar to let you quickly scan through any document. It is also possible to specify what font and screen mode you want, and print and save of the current document.

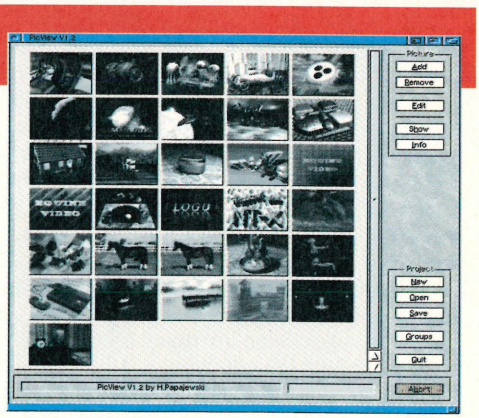


A decent text reader is an invaluable addition to anyone's utility collection

Pic View

Author: Holger Papajewski
Workbench: 3.0
Magic User Interface

This could be just the thing for anyone with a large catalogue of pictures on their hard drive, or any of the picture CDs that are floating around the PD house at the moment.



This powerful picture cataloguer will let you quickly access all your collection

Pic View allows you to produce a catalogue of all your pictures. It is very simple to operate as you use the file requester to select which pictures you wish to catalogue, and go. For each picture a thumb nail, grey-scale representation is produced.

Once the catalogue is made, you scroll through the list of images and double-click on an images to display that particular picture, or just get certain information about the picture – such as its size, name and where it is. If you have a large collection, it is possible to group related pictures together, making finding a particular image much easier.

Pic View uses datatypes to import the various pictures, so whatever picture datatypes you have, pic view will handle. Currently, that could include IFF, PCX, BMP, Jpeg, Targa, Mac Paint, Tiff, PNG and even Klondike card sets.

ATE

Author: Gordon Fecyk
Workbench: 2.04

Amiga Type Engine allows you to use the plethora of outline fonts that are available in the commercial and public domain. Essentially, it allows you to access Adobe type 1 and 3 outline fonts just as though they were normal Amiga bitmap or Compugraphic fonts.

All you need to do to use ATE is copy any postscript fonts you have into the PSFont drawer and voilà, next time you pop up a font requester there will be a host of new fonts available for you to use, in any of your art or writing packages, or just for Workbench.

The only font provided with ATE is called funky font – it's not too useful but will give you an idea of how ATE works. There are plenty of disks and CDs that have shareware PSfonts on them, and if you got our cover CD there was a complete section devoted to fonts, so you should now have a completely new selection of fonts at your disposal.

BMP Datatype

Author: Gunther Nikl
Workbench: 3.0

It's another BMP datatype, but you probably have one already so why would you want a new one. Well, the old BMP datatype only handled the Windoze BMP format, and would only load 16 and 256 colour pictures. When IBM released OS/2, they decided they wanted their own special version just to keep things nice and incompatible. This new version will handle both the IBM and OS/2 version of BMP.

Font Datatype

Author: Michael Letowski
Workbench: 3.0

As we are a friendly bunch down here at *Amiga Computing* we talk to each other, and seeing as we mentioned the Font datatype in the publishing page, I thought it might be nice to have it on the CoverDisk – aren't I a gent? What do you mean, no?

Anyway, this datatype will let you view any installed system fonts in MultiView. All you do is drop load the blar.font file and the next thing you know, you will have a large picture with all the available characters in that font. If you want, it is then possible to save off the picture so you can do any number of nasty things to it.

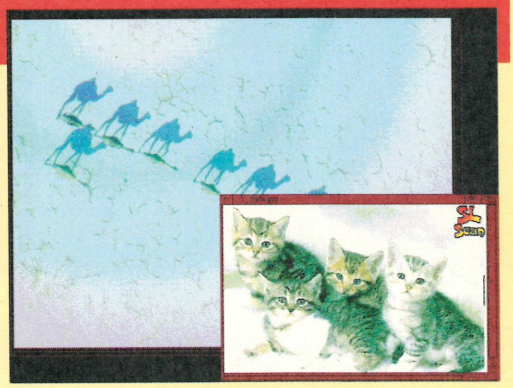
Tiff View

Author: Bert Wynants
Workbench: 2.04

If you remember, last month we had a Tiff datatype on the CoverDisk. Well, from the same author we now have Tiffview. The title of the program is a little misleading because as well as being able to view Tiff files, there are a whole host of options and functions available for you.

For starters, Tiffview directly supports IFF, Tiff, Jpeg, GIF and MacPaint picture formats, as well as any datatypes you may have. You then have a whole choice of display options. Firstly, you can choose what screen mode you want the picture to be displayed in – obviously AGA and graphic card owners have a nice advantage here.

You can then choose from five dithering methods which improve the visual quality, along with how many colours the image should be dithered to. This is helpful if you do not have a 256 colour display because it greatly improves the image quality.



An extremely versatile picture viewer that will handle many different formats

Once an image is loaded, Tiffview can act as a mini image converter, letting you save off a picture either as an IFF, Tiff or Jpeg. If you choose to use Jpeg you have a choice about the quality of the saved image. As Jpeg is a lossy picture format, a high compression ratio means lower image quality, while a low compression ratio leads to better image quality.

Flick

Author: Peter McGavin
Workbench: 2.04

With more Amiga owners getting access to the Internet and CD-ROMs, you are more likely to come across other picture and animation formats. One of the widely used animation formats on the PC is FLI or FLC. Animations in this format are mainly produced by Autodesk Animator (Pro) and Autodesk 3D Studio, as well as many other PC programs.

Flick is an excellent FLI player, and to use it just double-click the nasty looking icon and use the requester to pick your chosen animation. Even though Flick runs under 2.04, it supports a great deal of advanced options. It will take full advantage of Workbench 3 by using the new OS double buffering routines.

Users with either EGS or Cybervision graphics cards will be able to use flick directly on them. AGA owners are not left out as Flick will allow you to replay animations in there full 256 colour glory. If you have a CD32, Flick will even use the Akiko chip.

There are also numerous other replay options for OCS or ECS owners which allow different replay modes depending on what number of colours you would like. For those extra large animations, Flick will spool directly off a disk, and all the options can be changed in the icons tools types.

Considering all FLI animations have to be converted from chunky to planar, you get very good replay speeds on a plain A1200 – even when spooling on a CD.

TAPavi

Author: John Bickers
Workbench: 2.04

To continue with the animation theme, TAPavi allows you to view the standard Windoze video format AVI. The main advantage of AVI over FLI is that it allows animations to include sound, and it was designed to play back animations direct off disk. In some ways it is similar to the CDXL format.

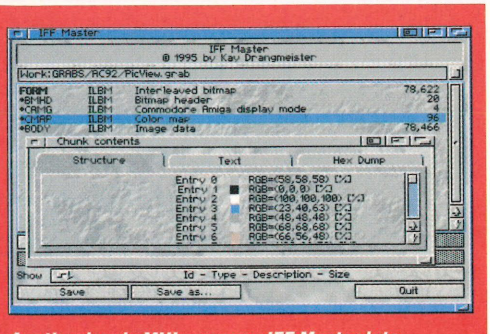
TAPavi will handle a number of different types of AVI files, including both 8 and 16-bit colour modes. If you have an AGA machine then you will be able to view any of the animations in glorious 256 colours.

As for sound, TAPavi will happily allow you to play both 8 and 16-bit sound out through the Amiga's normal audio. One problem, however, is that if your machine cannot play back an animation at its full frame rate, the sound may be a little corrupt, but this happens on PC so it's only to be expected.

IFF Master

Author: Kay Drangmeister
Magic User Interface

Have you ever wondered what lurked in the deepest, darkest, dankest depth of your IFF files? Well probably not. This is a fairly handy little program that lets you poke about with the insides of IFF files.

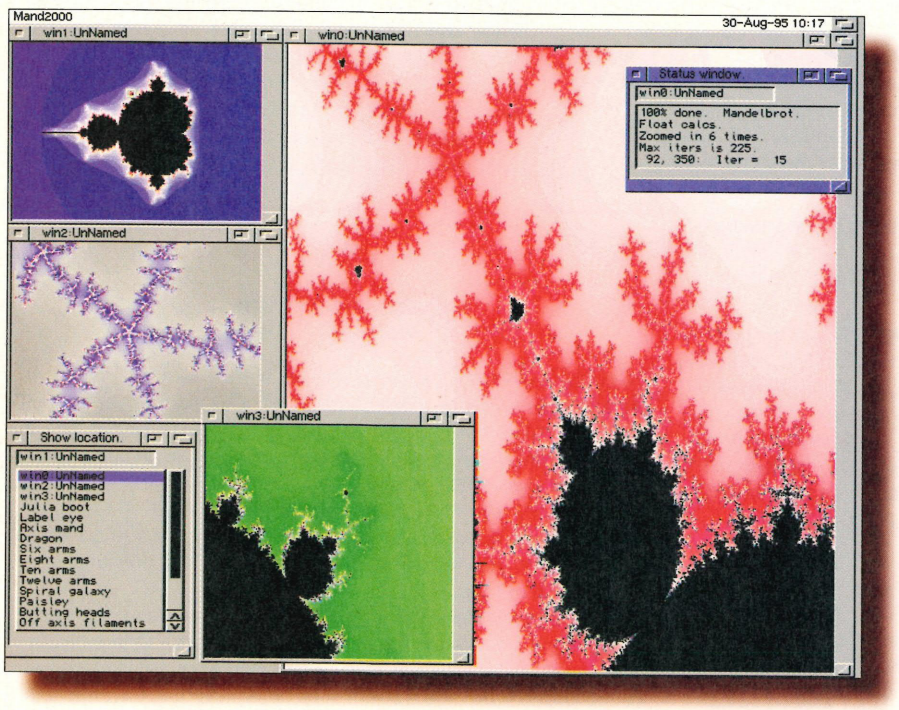


Another lovely MUI program, IFF Master lets you quickly access all your collection

IFF files are split up into chunks, each chunk containing different information about the file. For example, an ILBM file has a bitmap header and colour map chunks. IFF master knows about these, so can show you the palette used by an ILBM, and also the dimensions and other information about the picture.

Mand2000

Now you've had a chance to see what our coverdisk can do, why not upgrade to the full version of Mand2000



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● The release version of Mand2000 2.0 is regularly priced at $44.95. However, all *Amiga Computing* readers can upgrade to the release version for the discounted price of $29.95. The full release version allows unlimited saving of colour mapped, HAM and IFF24 images, and has no annoying requesters.

● *Mand2000 also has the facility to produce fractal zoom animations. You set up the start point in the fractal, say where you want to go and how many frames it should take. Click on proceed and then go off and have your tea. When you get back there should be a fractal animation you can impress your mates with.*

● There is also a Mand2000 CD-ROM containing the full release version of the software, plus a full CD-ROM worth of images and animations in a wide variety of resolutions, including NTSC, PAL, FrameStore and D1 video. Perfect for the video professional or fractal hobbyist.

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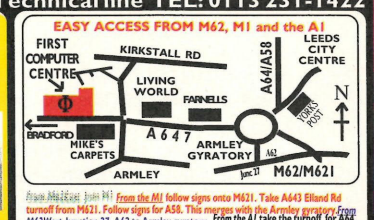

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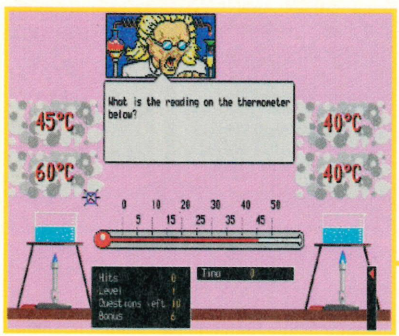
The appliance of science

Forget setting fire to your ruler with the bunsen burner or cutting off the frogs legs and putting them down your friend's jumper. 10 out of 10 Software have a new way of teaching science

10 out of 10 Software continue their educational series with Essential Science, a collection of six games designed to educate the 5 to 12-year old. To cope with such a wide age range, the package has a user-definable level of difficulty and the child can progress in a set of clear-cut stages.

Games vary from Steamer, where you must choose correct measurements, for example, to Shuttle, a cunningly disguised educational asteroids game that requires the player to identify the correct animal. Spectrum aims to give the player scientific facts in an interesting way, such as identifying parts of the body or parts of a flower. Space Walk also requires the identification of certain objects from a given description, and Microscope lets the child uncover facts as if under a Microscope.

Marks are awarded for every game and stars given for each section which tell the child how much progress has been made. The parent or teacher can also check progress as four different colours indicate levels of success. Red indicates help needed, yellow signifies practice needed, green is given for full marks, and blue medals are for continued success.



One of the activities in Steamer is to read off the thermometer measurements

UNAPPEALING

At first glance, though, it's hardly an appealing package. And what instantly strikes about Essential Science is the appalling graphics. It would be an insult to the Spectrum ZX to say the graphics resembled one of their earlier games because these are probably worse. When most doting parents are buying PCs for their precious Luke or Lucy to educate them through glossy multimedia packages, then there's nothing more guaranteed to make the 'educational Amiga' die a death than ugly titles like this.

Fortunately though, it's content that matters, and Educational Science is relatively proficient in this area. The activities are varied enough and will suit children in this range. Some are very good such as the measuring exercises and they do teach some of the rudiments of science quite well.

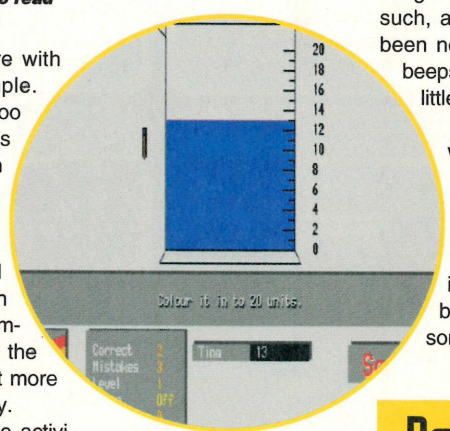
However, at the other end of the scale, some of the activities defy belief. One of them requires you to uncover an object underneath one of the slides as if it were a microscope. The child then has to uncover the right weather picture with the right weather text, for example. However, some of them look far too similar and a younger player is going to need help initially – an adult would probably have to think about it too. For instance, at first it would seem a bent over tree would represent wind – that is until you find a kite and realise this is in fact wind. This happens on a number of occasions and it's not that the exercise is particularly difficult, but more that the pictures are hard to identify.

The instructions for some of the activities are also rather bewildering such as, 'Which here has never been alive at any time?' – nicely put. Or how about, 'Which of these is now dead?' where one of the answers is Turkey Slices. It's enough to make you turn vegetarian and does little to help a child's understanding.

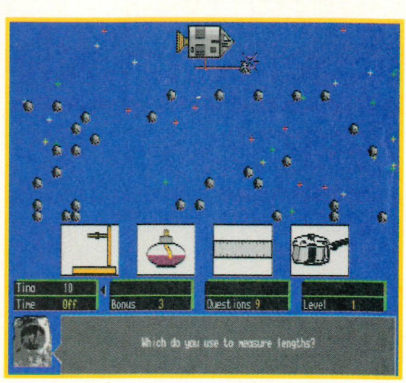
One thing that hasn't really been thought out is how to maintain the child's interest. The target age range will have very short attention spans and simple things that could have held their interest such, as sound effects, appear to have been neglected. The computer pings or beeps in appropriate places but their is little else.

It does redeem itself, though, with the Certificate system, where the players can either print out or show on screen the progress made. This would be ideal in a school situation or where the family has two or more children because it gives the players something to strive for.

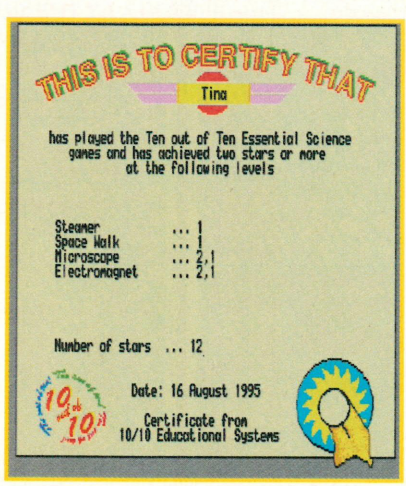
AC



Learn measuring skills by filling the beaker to the right level



This dire looking game involves directing the spaceman to the correct object



The Certificate is a good idea and should keep the players motivated

Down the wrong track

This isn't a particularly bad title, in fact some of the activities are quite reasonable, and it has been well structured for the wide age range. However, this is nowhere near up to the same standard as their other 10 out of 10 titles, and a little more attention to detail would have paid dividends.

The bottom line

Product: Essential Science
Price: £25.95
Software House: 10 out of 10
Tel: 0113 2394627

Ease of use	**5**
Implementation	**6**
Value for money	**7**
Overall	**6**

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Amiga 3000, 40MHz 040, 34Mb	43m 19s
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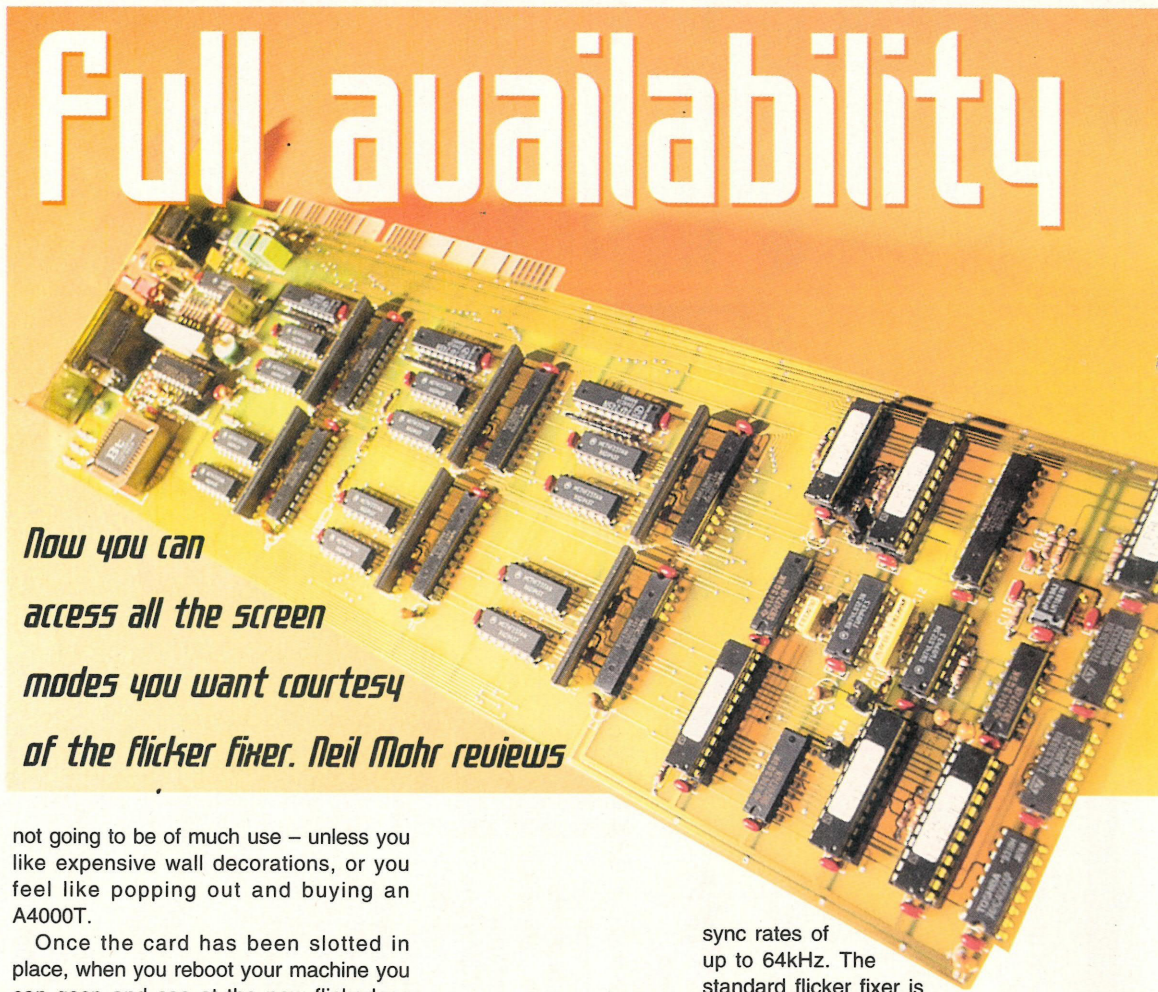


Now you can access all the screen modes you want courtesy of the flicker fixer. Neil Mohr reviews

It may seem strange that a company would release a flicker fixer in this day of high speed graphic cards, and the DblPAL capable AGA chip set. A few years ago there was good reason for getting hold of a flicker fixer, as this was the only way to use 640 x 512 screen resolutions without going blind. So if all you need to do nowadays is buy a cheap VGA monitor to access these high resolutions, why on Earth do you need a flicker fixer?

If you own an A4000, the options available to you when it comes to choosing a monitor are fairly limiting. You either splash out on an expensive multisync monitor that will allow you to work in any resolution, or plump for a cheap VGA monitor and lose the ability to display any of the standard low sync screen modes the Amiga uses.

Whichever option you choose, the only way you can use the AGA's high resolution modes is via the scan-doubled modes, such as DblPAL. This comes with a number of drawbacks – firstly DblPAL is horribly slow, especially when you use more than four bitplanes. The reason for this is that the DMA channels are so busy just keeping the display hardware supplied with screen data that there is virtually no time left to be able to update the screen.

VIDEO DRAWBACK

The second drawback is that you cannot use these screen modes to record video. This requires using a PAL or NTSC, if you are American, screen mode.

The addition of the flicker fixer will allow you to access all the Amiga's screen modes on a normal VGA monitor. This is achieved by the flicker fixer scan doubling the PAL modes up to a rate that normal VGA monitors can handle. For video people this is pretty darn useful, as you can use an interlaced screen for your video work without having to actually view those nasty flickery interlaced screens. It will even let you play games on a monitor – if you do that sort of thing.

Installation of the flicker fixer is as easy as it gets for a Zorro card. The card has to reside in the A4000's video slot, which is typically the bottom one. So if the video slot is already in use, the flicker fixer is not going to be of much use – unless you like expensive wall decorations, or you feel like popping out and buying an A4000T.

Once the card has been slotted in place, when you reboot your machine you can gasp and coo at the new flickerless screens. If you were already using a DblPAL screen mode, you will have to first delete the ScreenMode.prefs file from the ENVARC:Sys drawer before you can continue, as the flicker fixer is not too keen on scan doubling a scan-doubled screen.

You are provided with three video outputs – for the monitor a typical VGA 15 pin RGB output, and for video connection you have a composite and SVHS sockets. There is also a single switch that allows you to choose between the card being able to display full vertical overscan or 1440 horizontal pixels in Super Hi-res mode. The switch is provided because the board cannot automatically detect what 15Khz mode the Amiga is in.

The flicker fixer also provides de-interlacing of other Amiga screen modes. Primarily Super72 and MultiScan, this will allow you to use 800x600 and 640x1024 screen modes flicker free. You should, however,. check beforehand that your monitor will be able to cope with those sync rates of up to 64kHz. The standard flicker fixer is a PAL-only version – apparently, there is a special NTSC version that will allow Americans to use the SVHS and composite outputs on NTSC devices.

If you are looking for a complete solution that will allow you to display all Amiga screen modes, then a flicker fixer is the only real answer. The AGA flicker fixer is a very nice piece of kit, but even so, £400 is an awful lot of money to ask for it. Especially considering flicker fixers used to cost £125 a few years ago. AC

Built-in fix

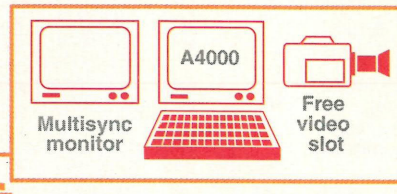
One problem with the flicker fixer is that all the jumpers used to adjust the timing of the picture are not located at the end, along with the switch and sockets. This means if you have any other cards fitted, it is extremely difficult to adjust the jumpers. You basically end up pulling all your other Zorro cards out in order to get access to them.

An associated problem is that the pot used for fine adjusting of the picture is also located on the board, which again makes things very awkward. The A3000 had a flicker fixer built in – why they did not do the same with the A4000 I do not know – but the A3000 had its pot nicely located on the outside for easy access.

These problems are not too severe because once the flicker fixer is set up, you do not have to access the jumpers or the pot again.

SYSTEM ESSENTIALS

RED = Essential **BLACK** = Recommended



The bottom line

Product: AGA Flicker Fixer
Supplier: Power Computing
Price: £399
Phone: 01234 273000

Ease of use	**8**
Implementation	**8**
Value for money	**4**
Overall	**7**

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Zig zag zip

Ben Vost examines a possible successor to the floppy drive

Well, finally we've had a Zip drive to look at. I know we've been promising it for quite a while now, but the facts of the matter are that IOmega, the company that produces the Zip, has been so inundated with orders in the States that none of their production run has reached these shores. However, thanks to a licencing deal with Epson, the Zip should be in plentiful supply by the time you read this piece.

First impressions of the Zip are very good. It's a gorgeous looking bit of kit, its lines reminiscent of something out of Bladerunner. The drive, as you can see, is a metallic blue, in splendid contrast to the drab beiges we have been used to for computer peripherals for a long time now.

The rear end of the drive shows us two 25-way SCSI ports – in and out – for putting the Zip in the middle of a SCSI chain, a termination switch – on or off – and a SCSI ID switch. The ID switch is the only possible problem with the Zip as you can only use SCSI IDs five and six, which might be a pain for A3000 owners. But with this being the Zip's only limitation, I can see a day when SCSI unit five or six is the standard position for a Zip in the way that three is there for CD-ROM or tape back up.

The Zip's power supply plugs into the side of the drive using a right-angle plug which slots into the side of the drive, leaving that edge flush – which is jolly handy as you might want to stand the Zip on its side. The Zip has two lights at the front and an eject button that feels just like the old Spectrum keyboard. Overall, its dimensions are not much larger than a standard external floppy drive unit, and it weighs less than most external drives I have seen.

The disks the Zip uses look almost like normal floppy disks, apart from the fact that they are somewhat thicker and have a small shutter. They also don't have a write protect tab, but more of that later. There is an interesting prism-like device on the left-hand corner of the disk nearest the shutter, which may be something to stop manufacturers from copying the disk design – SyQuest owners will know the number of different manufacturers of cartridges for their drives. Sliding back the shutter reveals a single disk, again much like a floppy, only with air on either side of the disk rather than being sandwiched between cloth.

RATE OF KNOTS

Inserting a disk into the Zip drive results in the disk being brought up to speed at a rate that will surprise and delight SyQuest owners – the disk being ready for use within about four seconds. Once it is ready, the disk will read and write data at a sustainable rate of about 1Mb a second. Yes, a meg a second. Pretty impressive for a removable media device.

The Zip is only currently available in an external version, although an internal one isn't out of the realms of possibility and there are two versions of the disks that it uses. The 100Mb disk is readily available, but the 25Mb disk's future looks in doubt. After all, who is going to want a 25Mb disk for only slightly less than the 100Mb version? HiSoft will also be shipping the Zip with an adaptor to link it up to a Squirrel, and a set of tools for formatting and toggling write protection which is controlled through software, rather than using a write protect tab.

It seems that the Zip drive actually breaks one of the primary rules of computing – take any two of the following three terms:- Cheap, Fast, Good. Basically, you can have something that is fast and good but not cheap, cheap and fast but not good – you get the idea. But the Zip seems to break this rule and goes for all three at once. With a price below £200 it certainly isn't expensive – we were paying that for a bare 105Mb Quantum hard drive not so long ago – and at a meg a second, the Zip certainly compares favourably with an internal hard drive. So that's fast taken care of, and with its looks and overall usefulness, you haven't got a good product, you've got a great one. AC

AMIGA BLUE CHIP AWARD

SYSTEM ESSENTIALS
RED = Essential BLACK = Recommended

SCSI controller

The bottom line

Product: IOmega Zip Drive
Price: £189.99 – 100Mb disk
£15.95 (less for quantity)
Supplier: HiSoft
Tel: 01525 718181

Ease of use	**10**
Implementation	**10**
Value for money	**9**
Overall	**10**

Cheap, fast, good... but big

If you want a Zip, but you really need more space per disk, IOmega will be bringing out a new drive based on the technology used in the Zip, called the Jaz drive. The Jaz looks similar to the Zip but is a bit taller and the disks are also about twice as thick.

The big difference is in the capacity of the disks the Jaz uses. While the Zip seems impressive storing 100Mb to a disk, the Jaz will astonish because it can hold a staggering one gigabyte on each disk. The only potential flies in the ointment are the facts that the Jaz won't be available for some time and that it will be considerably more expensive than the Zip.

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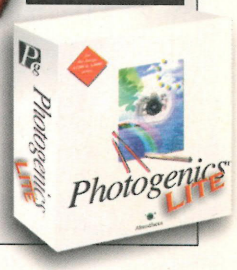

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Figures shown in our chart are in MIPS and are taken from comparative performance tests using SysInfo

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- 68030 may be disabled with a simple keystroke on boot up allowing full games compatibility - even badly programmed, older software!
- PGA FPU Socket allowing optional 50MHz, 68882 FPU

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[1]*Available 3rd Quarter '95* [2]*Available 4th Quarter '95*

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- Easy Trapdoor Installation
- Battery Backed Self Recharge RT Clock/Calendar
- High performance DMA expansion with full 32-Bit wide DMA
- 68060 may be disabled with a simple keystroke on boot up allowing full games compatibility - even badly programmed, older software!

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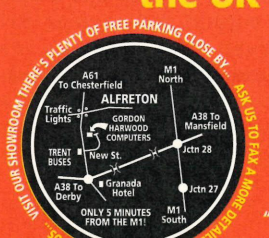

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The ultimate

Hooking up to the Internet may be seen by some as an expensive ordeal – buying a fast modem and increased phone bills can seem like a steep investment, but the resulting opportunities are well worth the initial expense.

Despite the lack of commercial support over the last year or so, the Internet sites available to Amigans are still as buoyant as ever. The popularity of the machine continues to amaze and its extensive presence on the Web is a sure-fire sign that the Amiga isn't about to drop off the face of the planet for the foreseeable future.

What follows is a rundown of some of the better and best sites around and what they've got on offer for that budding cyberpunk in you.

Companies

NewTek
http://www.newtek.com/

The manufacturing stars of the Amiga platform. LightWave? Video Toaster? Do we need to say more? Yes because, despite the company's pedigree, the actual site is something of a disappointment. There's plenty of PR info on their various high calibre packages, but they really could do with adding more. A helpline? Pricing? Reviews? Hints and tips? Links to other NewTek product-related sites? There's a great deal of scope. Come on NewTek, show your Net metal.

Content:2
Design:3
Links:1
Overall:2

While the site may be in Dutch, there's going to be an English version winging its way in the near future. In the meantime, look at the pretty pictures and realise that the Amiga actually has a company with some money behind it at long last

Escom
http://www.veronica.nl/escom/

If you know Dutch then this is just fab, but otherwise take a look at the pretty pictures. Apparently there is an English version on its way. You have been warned.

Content:NOT
Design:PARTICULARLY
Links:APPLICABLE
OVERALL:SORRY

Amiga resources

The Amiga Home Page
http://www.omnipresence.com/Amiga/

An excellent starting point for all things Amiga. Profiles, site links and news form the main bulk of what's on offer. Visit various magazines, find out about Amiga-specific downloadable software, take a trip to one of the many companies producing stuff for your favourite machine, meet other users, join groups for some indulgent chat on the Amiga, and flick through the variety of film and TV projects using the great machine as part of the production process.

During the Commodore crisis, the guys running the site kept constant info to help, aid and inform worried owners. Well worth a visit, and thumbs up to them for making this one of the best Amiga sites to go to. One niggle though – you sometimes find that certain pages are not accessible so don't expect instant updating in some of the areas. Not devastating but a bit of a shame all the same.

Content:5
Design:4
Links:4
Overall:4

The Amiga Web Directory
http://www.prairienet.org/community/clubs/cucug/amiga.html

An awesome mass of links to absolutely anything to do with the Amiga. Watch in horror as your eyes pop out at the sheer number of links to spend lots of phone bill money on. Developers, software, shareware, Jpegs, Escom info, FAQs, etc etc etc. Oh lordy, this, coupled with the Amiga Home Page and Aminet, is invaluable.

Content:4
Design:4
Links:5
Overall:5

Jaw droppingly comprehensive, the bods that created this should give themselves a serious slap on the back. If you need to know something about the Amiga and the Internet, this should be your first port of call without hesitation. Great stuff! Oh, a double plug in one feature!

Magazines

The one and only Amiga Computing – incomparable of course and our – I mean their – home pages come with a full thumbs-up

Amiga Computing
http://www.demon.co.uk/amigacomp/

Here it is – the best commercial Amiga mag site on the Web. If you want the latest rundown on the current issue and a few reviews and features thrown in to boot, then you've just scraped the top of the iceberg! Also hunt round our top ten fave site list and grab hold of some excellent subscription offers. Bless.

Content:4
Design:4
Links:3
Overall:4

Amiga Report On-line Magazine
http://www.omnipresence.com/Amiga/News/AR/index.html

A labour of love for the editor-in-chief, Jason Compton, Amiga Report is another example of the dedication shown by users. News, reviews, previews, opinion and more are offered in healthful doses, plus this guy has also been known to get exclusives. All the back issues are available to browse through and, in true public spirit, the whole thing is absolutely free. Recommended.

Content:4
Design:3
Links:2
Overall:3

Newsgroups

news:comp.sys.amiga.advocacy
news:comp.sys.amiga.applications
news:comp.sys.amiga.announce
news:comp.sys.amiga.datacomm
news:comp.sys.amiga.emulations
news:comp.sys.amiga.graphics
news:comp.sys.amiga.misc
news:comp.sys.amiga.networking
news:comp.sys.amiga.programmer

Newsgroups are an excellent forum for debate and help on a particular subject. With the Amiga's current crop, this is particularly obvious and shows the kind of support the machine still receives, even after spending too much of its time sitting on a backburner. Check out all the above if there's a relevant subject you want to talk about, receive help with, or slag off.

collection

Packed with software, info and debate, the Amiga is admirably catered for by the Internet. Adam Phillips tells you why

Aminet
http://src.doc.ic.ac.uk/public/aminet/info/www/home-src.doc.html

For those who have indulged themselves in the rather superb Aminet CDs currently available, you'll know what kind of immense potential the site has. The largest collection of Amiga software on the Internet, if you need a very specific program, demo, fish disk, game, 3D model, picture, sound, music module or whatever, the chances are you'll find it buried somewhere in here and easily available with the comprehensive directory system.

Content:5 Design:4 Links:4 Overall:5

Commodore Users Groups
http://www.prairienet.org/community/clubs/cucug/usergroups.html

Brought to you by the Champaign-Urbana Commodore Users Group, check who else all over the world is talking and supporting the Amiga as hardcore enthusiasts. From England and Ireland to the States and Australia, there are hotlinks to several and addresses to write off to for others.

Amos City
http://www.cee.hw.ac.uk/~ceebdb/amos/

The ever popular software authoring package has plenty of sites dedicated to it. Amos City is one of the more comprehensive examples, with downloadable files for use with the package, mailing lists for other users (highly useful for obtaining info, help and tips), extensions to the program, and more.

Could do with expanding – judging from our mail bag, there's still plenty of demand out there – but certainly worth a visit nevertheless.

Content:3 Design:3 Links:4 Overall:3

Amiga Mosaic Home
http://www.omnipresence.com/amosaic/2.0/

Sworn by most as the WWW browser for the Amiga, this site contains all the latest info on upgrades, questions, documentation, screenshots, downloadable versions and more. Useful and some would say vital, this is one of the first port of calls for Net virgins.

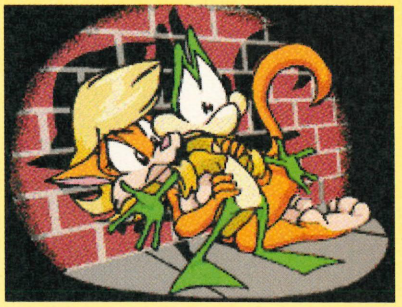
Content:3 Design:2 Links:3 Overall:3

Art

Eric Schwartz
http://info.ox.ac.uk/~kebl0206/eric.html

Seemingly the Amiga's animation mascot, Eric Schwartz has gained himself quite a formidable reputation. This site is as extensive as they come, with what appears to be a complete listing of all the man's anim work to date. All downloadable with info on when they were created, brief plot descriptions, size of files, and access to what you'll need to play them – anyone with a penchant for Schwartz should walk away from this site with a warm glow in their belly. Plus a look at his artwork, a few words from the man himself, and a history of Amy the squirrel.

Content:4 Design:3 Links:2 Overall:3



That man Eric has been churning out stuff for years now and this Web site has produced a glowing tribute to the artist's

Amiga Art Gallery
http://www.omnipresence.com/Amiga/Gallery/Gallery.html

Working in conjunction with Aminet, here's a large portfolio of constantly updated images to browse through. Featuring the usual rendering delights of LightWave, Imagine, Aladdin 4D, and Real 3D, there's something here for everyone. Plus there's some Mpeg to download as well.

Content:4 Design:3 Links:2 Overall:3

Rainbow of Chaos
http://www.indy.net/~gemini//

Focusing more on 2D art by Amigans, this site has a couple of resident artists and links to other artistic fanatics. There's no doubt that there needs to be more work to browse through, but the gallery 'owner' has an open invite to anyone wanting to submit any of their masterpieces for inclusion.

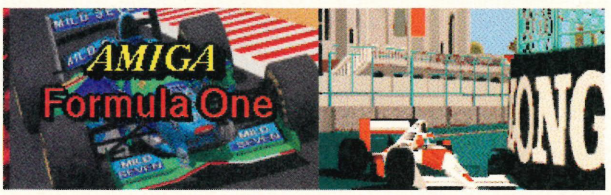
Content:2 Design:3 Links:2 Overall:2

An oddity

Amiga Formula One
http://cswww2.essex.ac.uk/users/robeoy/af1.html

Content:3 Design:3 Links:3 Overall:3

I doubt that Microprose ever realised that when their premier racing game, Formula One Grand Prix, was released it would attract this kind of devotion. Packed with info on the fan club, programs to aid better play and more, this is the ultimate site for budding Michael Schumachers (or Damon Hill if you're desperate to be patriotic). Recommended for fanatics only.



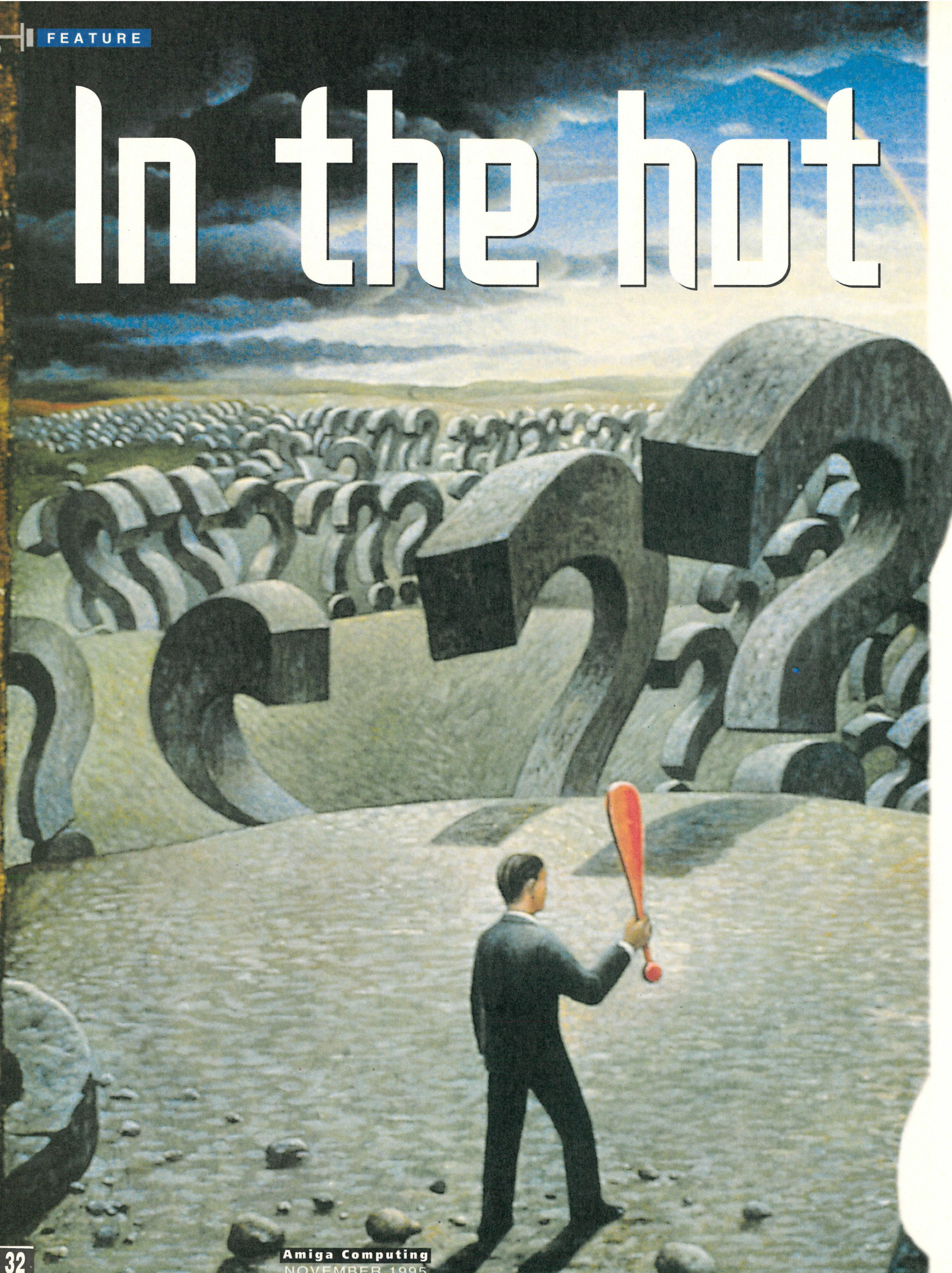
Wonders never cease – this home page is for fanatics of Microprose's classic only. Extensive stuff. I wonder if the author gets out much?

CD32 Newsgroup
news:comp.sys.amiga.cd32

While Escom are spouting out conflicting messages concerning the games console's future, there's still plenty of info to be gleaned from the Internet on the grey lunchbox's talent. This particular newsgroup has messages, debate, and FAQs from all over the world discussing the various strengths, weaknesses and problems with the machine.

Content:3 Design:3 Links:1 Overall:3

In the hot



seat

It was the height of summer, and the Amiga Technologies press conference announced the rebirth of the Amiga in the UK. Gareth Lofthouse reports on the tough questioning the company had to face

It was the moment we've been waiting 18 months for since the demise of the old Commodore Empire: the Amiga is back, said the men from Escom, and on target to hit the streets of Britain in time for September.

The official UK relaunch of the Amiga took place at a press conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Heathrow on a sweltering summer day in mid-August. Optimists might have taken the sunshine as a good omen, but difficult questions had been fermenting during the months since the takeover, however, and *Amiga Computing* was there to find out what substance lay behind the talk.

The panel assembled to state Amiga Technologies' case included most of the key players from Europe and Britain, which at least showed some encouraging commitment to the key UK market. Petro Tyschtschenko, the company's general manager, was accompanied by Jonathon Anderson and John Smith of Amiga Technology UK, plus PR man Gilles Bourdin, and Barry Thurston of SCALA who was there to orchestrate the multimedia presentation.

It soon became apparent, however, that the amount of new and concrete information available was rather limited. The announced specifications for the roll-out Amigas, for example, held no surprises, with even the faster 060 version of the 4000T not available until November at the earliest.

Amiga Technologies were not in a position to disclose much more about the contents of the software to be bundled with new Amigas either. John Smith, UK Sales Manager, revealed that 1200s would include a database, word processor, spreadsheet, paint package and two games, but specific product names were unavailable.

BUNDLED UP

The confusion over how Scala was going to be combined with 1200s was finally cleared up, with the announcement of two different A1200 bundles. The £399 bundle announced last month will lack a hard drive, and it was decided that it would be impractical to include SCALA with this option. Consequently, a £499 package was announced containing an Amiga with a built-in 170Mb hard drive ➤

Marketing a legend

Asked if there were any plans to advertise the Amiga products, Tyschtschenko replied that this would not be possible until next year. This means that at the time when Microsoft and the Japanese console manufacturers are taking over prime time TV slots, the Amiga will have little presence outside its own specialist press.

Anderson argued, however, that allowances had been made towards distributors to help them with cost, and he expects them to shout about the Amiga in their own adverts. Gilles Bourdin also pointed out that Amiga Technologies' presence at the IFA fair in Berlin showed a worthwhile marketing investment.

What is encouraging is that almost 50 per cent of the 60,000 Amigas allocated for the UK this year have already been sold. Amiga Technologies are confident they'll sell their entire stock of Amigas produced this year.

and Scala MM300, on top of the standard software bundle.

What *was* surprising, however, were a number of statements that contradicted details everyone thought were settled some weeks ago. It appears, contrary to what Tyschtschenko told *Amiga Computing* last month, that the Amiga will be distributed through Escom shops after all – a revelation that came as a relief to those concerned about the Amiga's high street presence this Christmas.

U-TURN

Previously, Tyschtschenko had believed that the Escom staff would be too geared towards PC and insufficiently educated about the Amigas to sell them successfully. The about face, however, seems to be based on the fact that the employees in the UK shops will all have had experience of selling Amigas before the Rumbelows buyout.

CD32 owners on the verge of hara-kiri were given pause for thought as well. While the failure to outline any plans previously had led many to assume the console was to be consigned to the dustbin of computer could-have-beens, Tyschtschenko gave it a more optimistic prognosis.

"We have had tremendous problems obtaining DRAMs, so we decided not to produce the CD32 this year," he offered.

Virtual Amigas

Despite it being the official relaunch of the Amiga, they was no sign of them at the conference. Escom did take the opportunity to unveil the Virtual I-O glasses, the virtual reality headset for which they have exclusive distribution rights.

Two versions will be made available. The basic video model will plug into any machine with a composite video port – for example Amiga and VCRs – enabling it to 2D and 3D films. The price is set for £599, though they hope to drop prices as the technology becomes more mainstream.

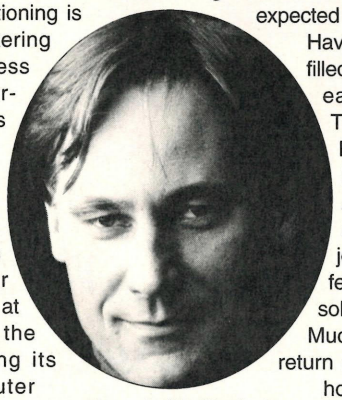
The PC version includes a head-tracker so it can be used with 3D games like Doom or Heretic. However, due to the fact it will require a PAL converter, it costs £899.

Hot suits, frayed tempers

The words 'press conference' might conjure up the vision of large halls packed with hordes of scribbling hacks, places where quickfire questioning is accompanied by a barrage of flickering flashlights from the assembled press photographers. You will not be surprised to hear that this affair was somewhat more – shall we say – subdued.

Ironically, Amiga press members themselves were rather thin on the ground, with staff from the games magazines conspicuous by their absence. It would appear that they, at least, are rather sceptical about the prospects of the Amiga regaining its place at the heart of the computer entertainment industry.

The remaining 'serious' editorial from *Amiga Computing*, Format, Shopper, CU Amiga and JAM magazines assembled at the Sheraton hotel, Heathrow, conversed with strained civility, moaned about the steep pricing for beer, and gave voice to the sort of cynicism I suppose is expected from journalists on these occasions.



Escom's MD Manfred, negotiating in America to ensure the Amiga's success

Having been ushered into a small but well filled room, the tone for the event was set early on. In his opening words, Petro Tyschtschenko excused the absence of Manfred Schmitt, explaining that the Escom MD was striking a deal in America somewhere – perhaps he was negotiating a take-over of Microsoft, he joked. It was the first sign that the conference was more about confidence than solid news.

Much as everyone wanted to proclaim the return of the UK's favourite home computer, however, old tensions within the Amiga community began to resurface once the speeches were over. Perhaps it had not helped that the first half of the conference was as much about Escom's PC line and PC games on the I-glasses as it was about Amigas.

"But you can be sure we will produce it next year. This year we have too many problems with our two main products."

This year though, the only other new products due from Amiga Technologies are the virtual I-glasses (see our new report) and a multiscan monitor that is almost certainly going to be the 14" Microvitec 1438 – though 15" and 17" models are planned for next year.

Neither the speech made by Petro Tyschtschenko, or John Smith, however, confronted many of the doubts that had been lurking at the back of most enthusiasts' minds, and it was only in the question and answer session that the knottier issues were addressed. Pricing was perhaps the most commonly voiced worry.

CLEAR AIMS

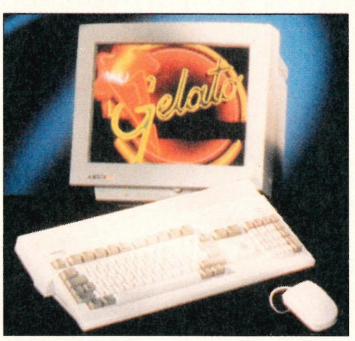
The £1900 ex VAT cost for 4000Ts was the first target, and with faster, fully kitted PCs available at around £1000, Amiga Technologies had to explain where they thought their high-end machine's market lay. "I think one of the problems in the past is that the Amiga has been badged as if it will do everything for everyone," argued Anderson. "We are clearly aiming the 4000T towards the multimedia market. Even though technology has moved on a bit, the Amiga is still the best machine out there because of its multitasking capabilities, among other things, for multimedia."

The multimedia strategy itself was later brought into question, however. Escom themselves are selling cheap, ready-to-run PCs with in-built sound cards and speakers. The terms PC and multimedia are almost synonomous in the eyes of the general public, and even the Amiga's flagship software, Scala, is now available for the rival platform.

Despite being pleased by their PC product, Scala UK's Barry Thurston fought back against the idea that the Amiga was overpriced and behind the times. "You still have to put an awful lot of expansion into a PC to get it up to the effortless performance level the Amiga has for multimedia," he argued. "So your basic cost might be OK, but your actual overall cost will be much higher. That's particularly true," he continued, "when you're talking about distributing information to television. The cost of putting a PAL encoder in a PC is damn expensive."

The argument for the A1200's strengths seemed more compelling, however. Amiga Technologies admitted the

The A1200: Amiga Technologies are confident about Christmas sales



The new multiscan monitor, looking suspiciously like the Microvitec 1438

A4000T: The new green case would have taken too long to produce

Amiga Technologies is run largely by ex-Commodore people, and at one point the panel faced the same sort of criticism over marketing strategy that was levelled at the old company. After all, it was argued, there seemed to be little marketing to raise the Amiga's profile, and not a lot in the way of new products either. "Convince us otherwise !" one person demanded in an increasingly heated atmosphere.

In response, Anderson contested that the massive advertising campaigns from Microsoft and the Japanese giants would just lead to confusion for the public, and added a criticism of his own against magazine publishers. "I think that one of the misdemeanours that most mags have done to the detriment of our industry is to confuse the end users **big time**," he retaliated. "They don't know whether to wait for this or that, and the net result is that they're still waiting. "Anderson's subsequent plea for Amiga Technologies and the specialist press to work together for a successful relaunch did little to calm things down. The Future Publishing camp accused Anderson of snubbing Amiga magazines by giving information to CTW first. There then ensued an argument about who phoned who first, how many messages were left on whose answering machines, and so on, until discussion of the Amiga seemed in danger of being lost in personal disputes.

> The Amiga will be distributed through Escom shops after all - a revelation that came as a relief to those concerned about the Amiga's high street presence this Christmas

Fortunately, the proceedings soon returned to more of an even keel, but a certain amount of frustration remained at Amiga Technologies' failure to dispel some widely held doubts. Perhaps, though, the press were expecting too much from the company in the time they'd had to ramp production up. "We know there is a lot more to be done," Gilles Bourdin acknowledged after the conference had been wound up.

Tyschtschenko, general manager: ' We will start spending on advertising next year.'

machine faced some stiff competition both from £299 super consoles and low priced PCs, but there was a strong belief that the A1200 could win the middle ground as an entry-level computer.

As far as the PC was concerned, John Smith argued, not everyone could afford £1000 even if they wanted one. Tyschtschenko also pointed out that PCs were about to rise radically in price due to the fact that Windows 95 required a minimum of 8Mb of notoriously expensive RAM.

A lot of people originally bought their Amigas to play games, but with Sony's Playstation about to hit the shops, didn't they fear for the A1200's fortunes in the Christmas season? John Smith was unperturbed over this issue.

"I think the kind of productivity software in the pack we were delivering at the end of Commodore's time showed the direction in which we were already moving," he said. "Basically, I think lots of A500/600 users want to move over to the 1200 – they now have computer experience and they want productivity stuff. They know the Amiga is far more than just a games machine, so we will certainly push things towards the productivity side."

Anderson added that it would attract people who were sick of the console's limitations as well. "Most parents want their kids to have more than one option. With a console you either play games or do nothing. I don't think we're directly squaring up to the Japanese here."

Make or break

The Amiga's relaunch is imminent, but its long-term survival is less certain. Amiga Technologies are confident of being able to sell the Amigas allocated for the UK market this Christmas; if they are to prevent it from slipping back into oblivion, however, upgraded machines with bundled CD drives must be accompanied by serious investment in advertising, and the sooner the better.

If it was a pity that the conference led to some angry exchanges between the press and the panel, it was at least a testament to how passionately everyone assembled wanted the Amiga to be reborn. And in raising the spectre of future challenges, it's easy to forget what Amiga Technologies have achieved in getting the computer back into the shops in time for Christmas. Tyschtschenko put it succinctly:

"To ramp production up in three months is very difficult. I can tell you I've never worked so hard in all my life to be successful for the Amiga as I have in the last three months."

Friends in high places

The day after announcing the relaunch to the press, Amiga Technologies presented its UK strategy at a developer's conference. *Amiga Computing* contacted Hi-soft, makers of the Squirrel interface, to find out their reaction to the key issues.

MD David Link's views on the pricing were generally positive. "Taken as a whole package, the bundle offers tremendous value for money," he said. Yes we would all like to see a stand-alone A1200 at a lower price. But I can understand Amiga Technologies' need to put forward A1200s at a price that allows them to go on supporting the Amiga. They've done that by putting forward a very attractive software bundle."

Link did add, however, that he thought the A4000 was over-priced and hoped it would come down in cost once Amiga Technologies had recovered some of its expenditure.

UNCONCERNED

As far as the lack of pre-Christmas advertising was concerned, Link was unconcerned. "Knowing our customers as we do," he commented, "there's a large pent up demand for A1200s and A4000s in the market that will be reached through the individual retailers. People like us evangelise the machine, and that's as good as any advertising given the number of machines available before Christmas."

Link was also impressed by Amiga Technologies' marketing push, although he accepted that Amiga users wanted CD interactive titles as well as authoring systems. "Of course we want products like Encarta and Cinemania," he said. "But that's up to individual publishers to bite the bullet. I think the number of CD drives sold with the Squirrel shows the serious potential for any publisher to move in on that market."

Like Hi-Soft itself, we asked? Link responded positively: "If anybody wanted to approach us with half an idea, or an authoring system, or a title they wanted publishing, we would almost positively seriously consider it."

Not everyonewas so positive, however. Chris Wiles, MD of Active Software, felt the price even for A1200 was set too high.

Come fly with me

Transform your IDE interface into a SCSI port. Surely it cannot be true, Neil Mohr finds out

There has always been a certain snobbery about SCSI. If one person has a SCSI hard drive and the other an IDE then the SCSI owner could always feel superior, and can happily scoff at their friends inadequacies.

Generally, SCSI hard drives are considered to be superior in performance than IDE, even though you do have to pay for the privilege. Apart from the performance advantage, a SCSI interface allows you to connect up to seven peripherals onto the SCSI chain. This is the greatest advantage over IDE as they only allow you to connect two IDE hard drives, and you usually have to faff about with jumpers, making one a master drive and the other a slave drive, which normally involves ringing up the manufactures and getting the correct details.

Currently, if you want to add a SCSI interface to your A1200 your options are quite limited. You can either buy one of the trapdoor accelerators that also have a SCSI option, or get a Squirrel. The first is fairly expensive and the last ties up your PCMCIA slot.

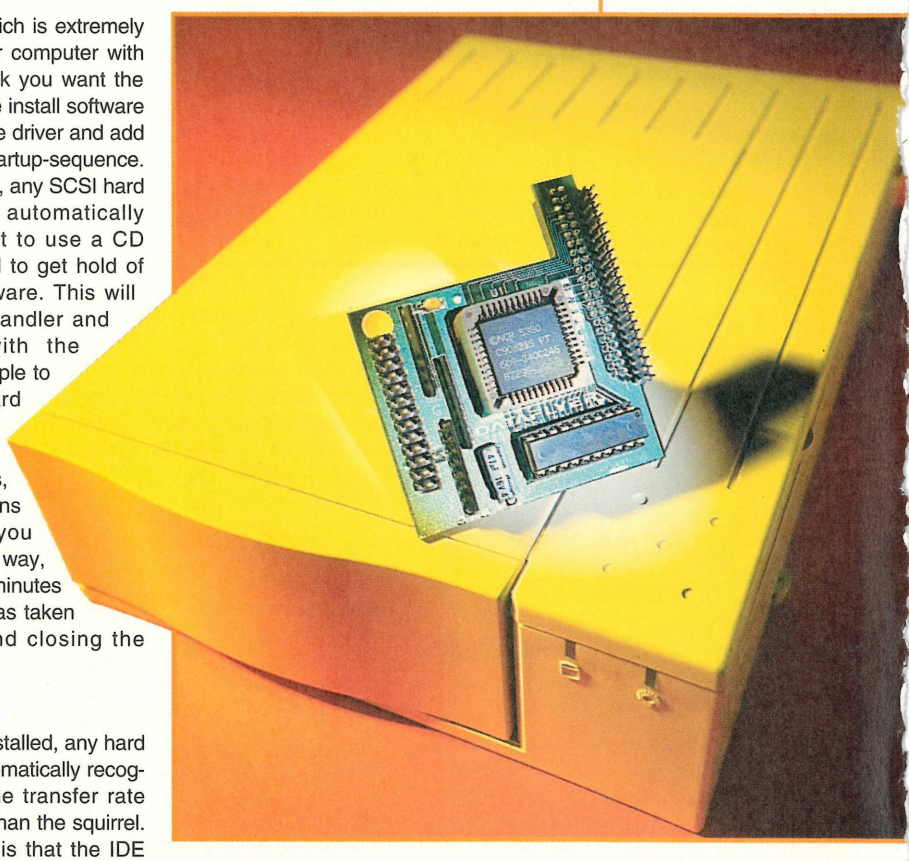
A few years ago that would have meant little, as there were no PCMCIA peripherals around, but more and more are starting to appear, and for certain people, leaving the slot free might be a necessity.

Installation of the DataFlyer is necessarily more complex than the Squirrel, because it plugs into the IDE slot of your computer. Firstly, you have to place a small plastic square under where the DataFlyer will go. This is required to stop the DataFlyer's circuit board from shorting out on the Amiga's metal shield. You then plug the board into the IDE port.

If you have a hard drive already, you will need to move it back about a centimetre to allow the leads to fit. This is done by unscrewing the drive from its tray and then, using a rubber bung, the drive is wedged back into the tray in its new position. This might not sound very secure but the drive really is fixed in position very firmly.

All that remains is to feed a ribbon cable from the DataFlyer round to that hole at the back of your A1200 – the one you never knew a use for. By then screwing a supplied metal plate into place, and then screwing the connector into this, you end up with a brand spanking new SCSI port at the back of your Amiga. This just leaves the software to install, which is extremely simple. You boot up your computer with whichever partition or disk you want the driver installed on, and the install software will copy the correct device driver and add a couple of lines to the startup-sequence. The next time you boot up, any SCSI hard drives attached will be automatically recognised. If you want to use a CD drive, you will also need to get hold of the AmiCDhandler software. This will install the correct CD handler and DosDriver for use with the DataFlyer and is very simple to install, using the standard Amiga Installer.

Fitting the DataFlyer was a very simple process, with good clear instructions in the manual. Taking you through each step of the way, in total it took about 15 minutes to fit. Most of that time was taken up with opening up and closing the Amiga.



RECOGNITION

Once the software is installed, any hard drives you attach are automatically recognised and mounted – the transfer rate being only a little slower than the squirrel. The main problem here is that the IDE interface is dependant on the CPU, so the faster your computer, the faster the DataFlyer will be.

One of the drawbacks from using the IDE port is that the first two SCSI devices are set aside for IDE hard drives, with these being treated as SCSI hard drives. This has the effect that you will only be able to attach five other external devices. For most people this should not pose any problems. AC

Pros and cons

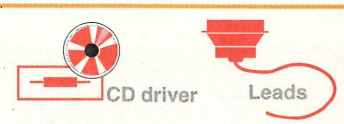
The main competition for the DataFlyer is the Squirrel, so any A1200 owner wanting a SCSI interface will want to consider the pros and cons of both. As a SCSI interface the DataFlyer works well. It is reasonably priced, has the advantage of leaving the PCMCIA slot free, and you end up with a neat new SCSI interface at the back of your A1200.

The main draw back with the DataFlyer is that some people may be put off with the installation and also, if you are wanting to connect a CD you can get the Squirrel as a complete package. If you are wanting to use the DataFlyer with a CD, Siren can supply all the necessary leads and the AmiCDhandler software.

If you are not put off by the thought of having to remove the top of your A1200, then the DataFlyer is a neater solution to getting a SCSI interface.

SYSTEM ESSENTIALS

RED = Essential **BLACK** = Recommended



The bottom line

Product: DataFlyer
Supplier: Siren Software
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Phone: 0500 340548

Ease of use	**7**
Implementation	**8**
Value for money	**7**
Overall	**7**

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Draco - a

After much hype and hollow promises, it appears there's about as much chance of a new or improved Amiga appearing before Christmas as yours truly sprouting an extra orifice. At best, we can expect a fresh production run of the existing range with perhaps the added glamour of the new Amiga Technologies logo. Not what you'd call inspiring news for serious Amiga users.

Fortunately, there is a ray of hope thanks to the Amiga's most prolific third-party supporter. Even through the Amiga's darkest hour, MacroSystem have continued to develop their impressive range of add-ons, which have now evolved into a completely new machine with Amiga technology at its heart.

Courtesy of their existing hardware, MacroSystem already have all the principle elements of a ground-breaking computer. Thanks to Retina, which in the Draco's case ships with 4Mb of RAM and CyberVision drivers as standard, they can deliver super fastest 24-bit graphics. Add to that stereo 16-bit audio via Toccata and the digital video skills of VLab Motion and you arrive at a computing potential the PC and Mac can only dream off.

What's missing is, of course, an operating system, and in that particular area the Amiga is still revered. With Windows 95 barely knocking on the door of Workbench 1.3 and the incredibly expense and self indulgent OS of the Mac, a licensed Amiga OS is the obvious choice for serious audio/video and CG productions.

GREAT CHOICE

With its combination of 10-years multitasking experience, a natural affinity with video, an OS which only requires one eighth of the resources required by a PC to perform the same task, the Amiga OS is the obvious choice for the new Microsystems' machine.

Although sound and vision are taken care of, there's the small matter of the CPU, not to mention the other I/O essentials that go to make up a modern computer. In the case of the Draco, this is taken care of via a 'Draco direct' plug-in CPU card and I/O combo consisting of an 060 with a SCSI II controller, space for up to 64Mb of RAM via standard simms, connections for mouse, serial, parallel ports and of course an HD floppy.

Add to that an array of QuickLogic chips for Kickstart and a few other essentials and you arrive at the world's first Amiga on a card – with one major difference. At first glance, the Draco's graphical user interface – or GUI – looks every inch an Amiga, but there is one major difference. The Draco does not have the AGA, or in fact any part of the Amiga's custom chipset. To prove the point, a quick glance at the menu bar reveals not 2Mb, but 4Mb of chip memory – alias Retina on-board Add to that the lack of the AGA chipset and you arrive at the Draco alternative. Admittedly, this may sound like a terminal problem, but for those using the Amiga as a production tool – especially video – the AGA Chipset is often more of a hindrance than anything else.

However, no AGA obviously does preclude certain applications from the Draco repertoire, notables including Dpaint, Brilliance and most important of all Scala. In short, software that insists on the AGA chipset by default, or in the case of Scala has a heavy dependence on Amiga specific chip RAM. To counter the loss of Dpaint, MacroSystem are already putting the finishing touches to a 2D animation system for Xipaint – a package which already ships as part of the Retina/Draco software suite. To further enhance the painting power, MacroSystem have already successfully tested TVPaint on the Draco. As a result, a dedicated Draco version and dongle should be shipping in the Autumn.

Obviously, Scala presents a bigger problem, and at present there are no plans for a dedicated Draco version. However, if the machine achieves the success it deserves, I'm sure it wouldn't be too long before Scala step in to fill the gap in the

Dragon fire

Another unique, and truly superb feature of VLM is its seamless combination of audio and video, since version 2.0 of the MovieShop software VLM has had the ability to act as a true digital AV – audio/video editing system.

Unlike any other Amiga system, audio and video are actually hard-wired together. As a result, when you cut, copy and paste video, the same edits apply to the accompanying stereo or mono audio. When the need arises you're still free to import, edit, and export the accompanying audio tracks or mix them within MovieShop to generate a perfect backing track.

Although both VLM and the Toccata sound cards

new breed

Paul Austin previews the incredible MacroSystem power tower

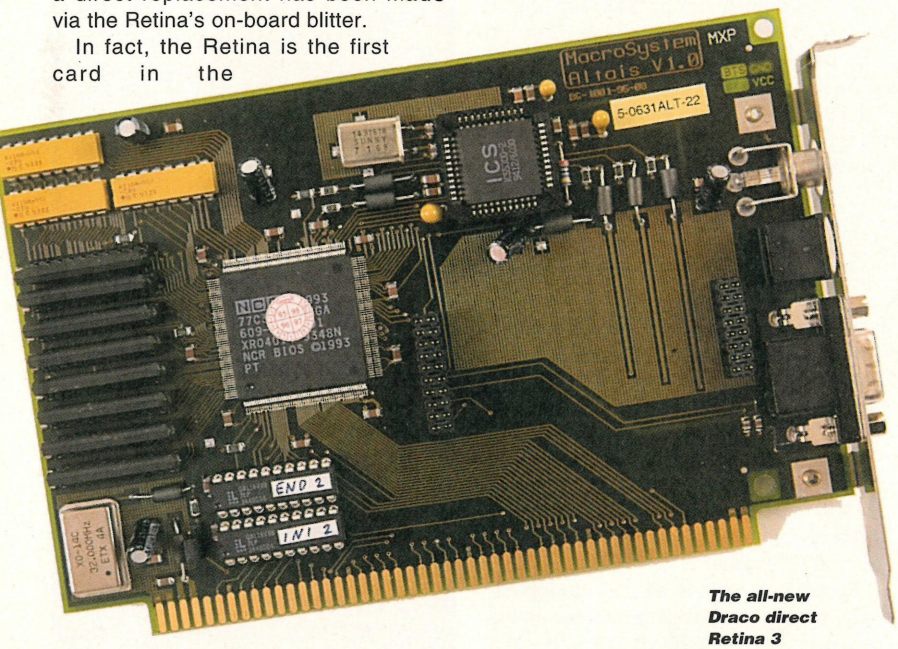
market. After all, if they can port to the PC in the form of MM100, I doubt they'd have too much trouble doing the same for the Draco – the process being made all the easier via the standardisation offered via MMOS.

DRACO DIRECT

The lack of the standard Amiga chipset could hold a few potential problems for programmers and indeed some notable Amiga Applications. One of the most worrying aspects is access to the Amiga blitter. Fortunately, MacroSystem have already spotted the problem and after some clever coding, a direct replacement has been made via the Retina's on-board blitter.

In fact, the Retina is the first card in the collection to go 'Draco direct' and can now pump through an incredible 35Mb per second, making it the fastest graphics card in the business – running Workbench or any graphic card-compliant software in full 24bit, 64K or 256 colours in a variety of resolutions ranging from 320 x 240 up to 1600 x 992.

The Retina's affinity with Workbench emulation, plus the ever-growing range of software with direct support for RTG boards, is a key factor in the development of the Draco. LightWave, ADPro, ImageFX, Wordworth, PageStream, the list goes on. As a consequence, even with the Custom Chipset stripped away, the Draco remains compatible with the vast majority of Amiga applications – only the ones which absolutely insist on standard chip RAM or the AGA fall by the wayside.



The all-new Draco direct Retina 3

COMPATIBILITY

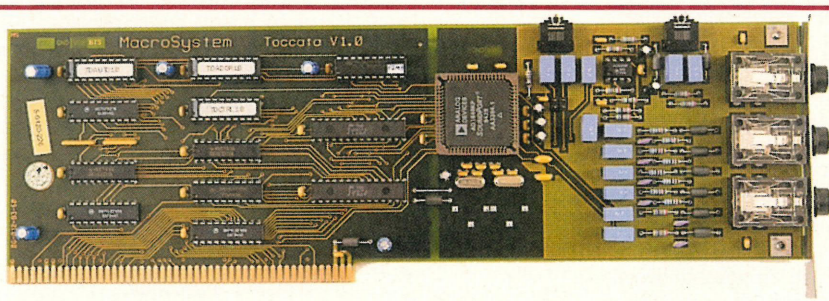
Another huge plus for the Draco is its backwards compatibility. This may seem a strange comment in relation to a brand new computer, but when it comes to MacroSystems' hardware it's entirely accurate. Obviously, there's a lot of people out there who've already invested a fair amount of hard earned cash on Toccatas, VLab Motion cards and Retina's. The good news is that all of the above will work perfectly well in the Draco. As a consequence, MacroSystem will be offering a mix and match option for those who already have elements of the Draco as part of the existing systems.

However, it must be said there are

➤

combine forces within the MovieShop/Draco environment, samples captured directly via the Toccata such as backing music or narration can still be imported and mixed with the existing AV in the production. Better still, any imported or directly captured audio can still be worked upon within MovieShop. For example, you can import as much audio as you like, adjust its length and position on the Timeline, or transfer it between video clips or scenes.

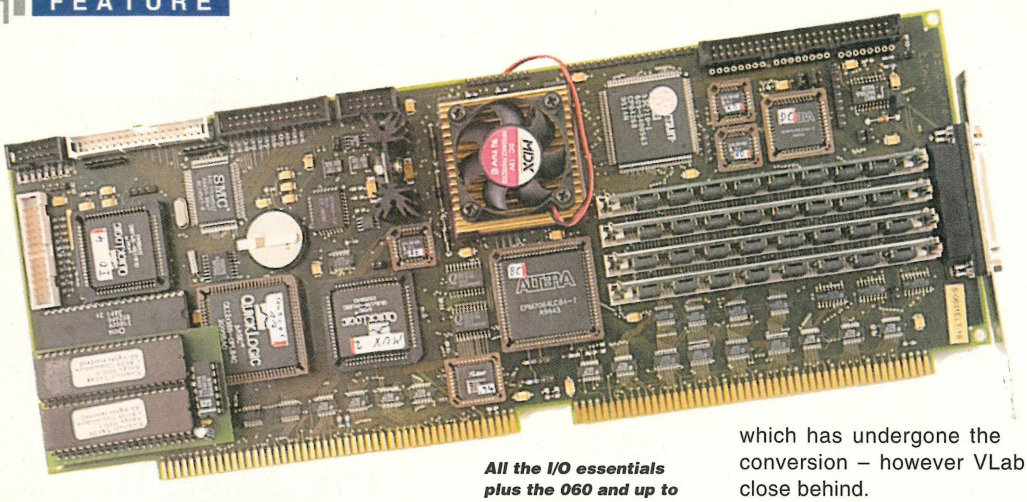
But perhaps most importantly, you also have complete control over the sound envelopes of the samples you're working on. As part of the Timeline control, you're provided with an envelope requester which allows you to insert multiple edit points and adjust where the levels appropriately. Consequently, you can introduce frame accurate volume changes and even cross-fades between different audio tracks in different video clips. In short, complete control over the sound dynamics within the production.



The Toccata card delivering DAT quality stereo sound with multiple input mixing MoviShop and its own control software

Once you've achieved a suitable mix between the original audio, backing music, vocal over-dubs, sound effects or whatever else, the whole thing can be boiled down into a new super sample which can be linked to a particular section of video or kept as a separate element.

The finishing touch on the audio side is the arrival of a built-in SMPTE timecode generator. Now, striping a tape with timecode is simply a matter of plugging-in the target recorder and clicking on a button. Yet another broadcast essential catered for.



All the I/O essentials plus the 060 and up to 64Mb RAM on board

advantages for those willing to invest in 'Draco direct' hardware. At present, the Retina is the only card in the collection which has undergone the conversion – however VLab Motion is close behind.

A standard Zorro II VLM transfers roughly 1Mb a second faster on the Draco, courtesy of a fast Zorro II software patch. In addition, the MovieShop code has also been optimised, especially in relation to decoding and encoding for the ever growing band of DVEs.

Running the standard VLM card, the Draco can attain, and more importantly maintain, 90 per cent Jpeg compression, which equates to BetaCam SP and above. In other words, image quality on a par with the DPS Personal Animation Recorder – otherwise known as the PAR card.

However, with the arrival of the "Draco direct" version, VLM compression will no longer be a consideration. With transfer speeds up to three times faster than Zorro III the "Draco direct" VLM will easily encode real-time full frame video without using any compression whatsoever. And better still DVE decoding and encoding will be done via hardware – making for much faster DVE

The Alpha option

Okay, you've heard the preamble concerning the key elements in the system, but what's it all in aid of? In short, the Draco is a one-stop graphics, digital video and audio solution which will become one of the fastest rendering and digital video effects systems on any desktop.

The aforementioned Dec Alpha co-processor could well prove to be the real key to the Draco's success in the long term – with the first and most obvious beneficiary being the MovieShop software.

Not surprisingly, an expansion slot already awaits a new co-processor which features the fastest chip in the Dec Alpha range, and currently holds the record for the world's fastest micro-processor delivering an astonishing 450 mips – which translates into 10 times the speed of an 50Mhz 060. The end result in MovieShop's case is real-time DVEs in software.

At present, the generation of wipes, fades and special effects can be a fairly lengthy process, especially on more complex DVEs. However, with the arrival of the co-pro, the vast majority of MovieShop SFXs will be real time, while the more complex flying cubes and the like will be generated in near real time.

However, MovieShop need not be the only software to cash in on the power of the Dec Alpha. MacroSystem will be providing a dedicated compiler for anyone wishing to re-compile their software for the Draco co-pro – obvious choices being LightWave, Real 3D and the like.

In the past, the attempts at partial RISC solution on the Amiga OS has fallen at the first hurdle. Nevertheless, the MacroSystems' example does prove that a RISC-based accelerations system, an 060, and the Amiga's existing OS can work – Amiga Technologies please take note.

But unlike its predecessors, the Draco will have the advantage of a solid platform with a user base whose ownership of the machine in itself proves dedication to the DV and computer graphic cause.

Timelines and SFX

When the real time grabbing and importing is complete, and the assorted clips have been trimmed, edited, and appended, the next step is to drop them into the Timeline and add the all-important special effects and additional audio.

The actual process of building the Movie is entirely non-destructive. In reality it simply offers a means of layering and combining existing audio and video into a new sequence. The end result of all this is user-defined sequencing of all the existing scenes – aided by visual and audio effects. If a new clip overlaps an existing element, a fade operator could be dropped between the overlap to produce a digital cross-fade.

This ability to mix and process multiple sequences points to another unique feature of VLM, namely its ability to operate as a digital A/B roll environment with a built-in digital effects processor. Admittedly, this is by no means a real-time process, because once the scenes are arranged, and the operators in position, MovieShop still has to set about processing the video sequence, transitions and effects specified within the Timeline.

Fortunately, this is all done automatically, but it nevertheless takes time as the process is done entirely via software – in a similar way in which ADPro and ImageFX apply effects to single images. Needless to say, Draco's 060 is a real bonus at this stage.

As you've probably guessed, audio is also computed in a similar manner. If, for example, you've added a backing track, or adjusted the envelope within an existing AV soundtrack, a separate computing pass is needed to apply the changes. Fortunately, this process usually takes only a matter of seconds.

Although the DVE process may sound daunting, after a little practise it becomes second nature. Beginners are catered for via an easy mode in addition to the more complex RPN approach – which can process an almost unlimited number of sequences alongside multiple layered special effects.

What's in the box

As mentioned earlier, mix and match configurations are available for those who already have elements of the system. However, assuming you're starting from scratch, the basic DV system consists of the following: The Vlab Motion, Toccata, Retina and the 060 CPU and I/O combo.

On the storage side you start off with an HD disk drive. The only limitation of which is that the drive is in fact a PC HD floppy. As a consequence, it actually writes Amiga format floppies at roughly half the normal speed.

In addition to the floopy, the Draco also ships with a quad-speed CD-ROM plus 4Mb of RAM as standard. To complement the CD-ROM, MacroSystem will also be supplying a dedicated CD which houses Workbench and installs all the accompanying software and utilities needed to manage the system.

Even more interesting is a plan to incorporate Shape Shifter as a standard part of the Draco software suite. For those unfamiliar with the Shape Shifter, it allows you to define either a file or a partition as a Macintosh.

Add Mac system software and you effectively have a full blown Mac running on your Amiga, or in this case a Draco. However, in order to accomplish the seemingly unthinkable you do need a Mac ROM stored as a file on your machine. Obviously, simply ripping a ROM image out of a Mac is highly illegal. As a consequence, an official deal with Apple is essential. MacroSystem are confident that current negotiations will end in the all-important handshake. And if so, Draco owners will have access to the best of both the Amiga and the Mac.

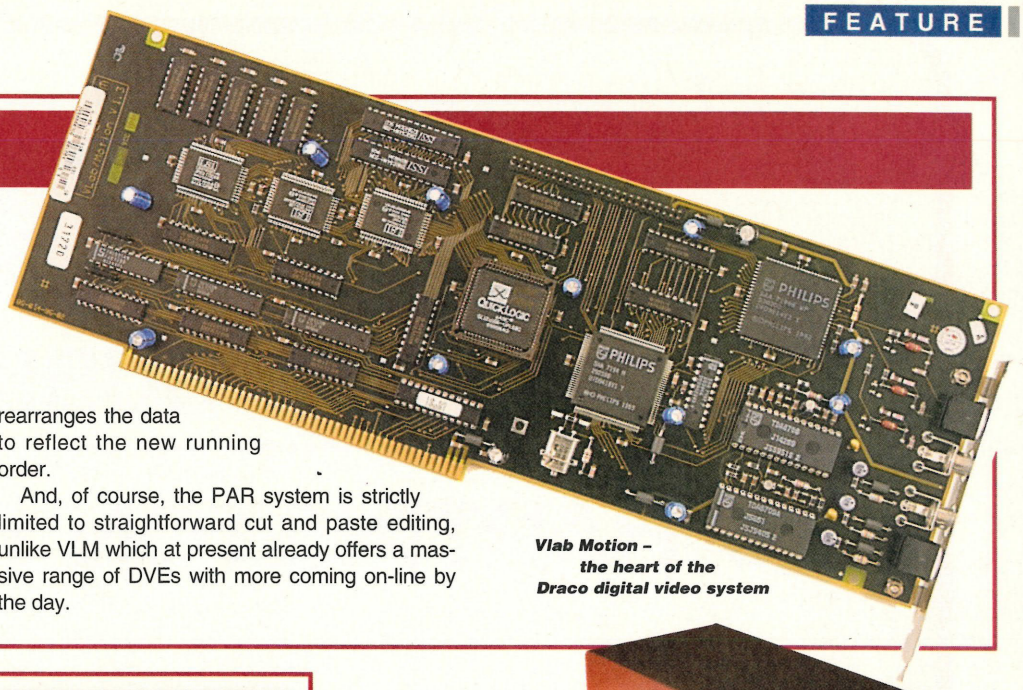
On the Amiga side, MacroSystem are throwing in the complete ADPro collection including the conversion

An editor's delight

As you've probably gathered, the real essence of the Draco's appeal is its ability to operate as a true off-line editor/digital video effects generator. And in that domain it stands head and shoulders above the opposition.

Unlike the PAR card, actually moving edits around is both easy and, most importantly, instantaneous. Rather than physically moving the data, the VLM and MovieShop combo simply makes a cuelist from the existing data and skips around the drive with the assistance of RAM buffering. As a consequence, making changes to the running order of scenes, or entire movies is instant, whereas the same process on the PAR could literally take hours as the system physically rearranges the data to reflect the new running order.

And, of course, the PAR system is strictly limited to straightforward cut and paste editing, unlike VLM which at present already offers a massive range of DVEs with more coming on-line by the day.



Vlab Motion – the heart of the Draco digital video system

processing. As a result full D2 – the digital video broadcast standard – will be guaranteed. The only problem then will be one of available storage space. To drive the point home the existing Jpeg compression settings will be replaced with a Mb per second – enabling the user to define how much space to use per second of encoded video.

Thanks to such a high degree of image quality, Draco will easily hold its own in the broadcast market, even on a Zorro II VLM – a factor which is backed up by a direct link to BetaCam SP equipment and other broadcast quality hardware. This is thanks to an optional YUV component module which simply slots onto the board.

The only other card that really benefits from a 'Draco direct' connection is the Retina and as that's already alive and kicking, the only other element is the Toccata. However, it remains to be seen if MacroSystem will bother with a 'Draco direct' version as the existing version already works at and above CD quality as standard.

Up and coming

Needless to say the launch of the Dec Alpha co-processor is a major event for the elite. However for mere mortals, investment in a co-pro will hinge on the arrival of re-compiled versions of LightWave and other power applications specifically for the Draco.

In addition to the various bits that have already had a mention, there is one more imminent upgrade waiting in the wings, which like the co-pro is due to coincide with the official Autumn launch of the Draco. The mystery add-on is in fact a new 64-bit graphics card which will provide full a colour preview actually on the MovieShop control screen. Better still, the card will also generate a genlockable signal. Add both of the above to a 64-bit bus and you're looking at a blisteringly fast card that should add the finishing touch to the Draco.

And finally

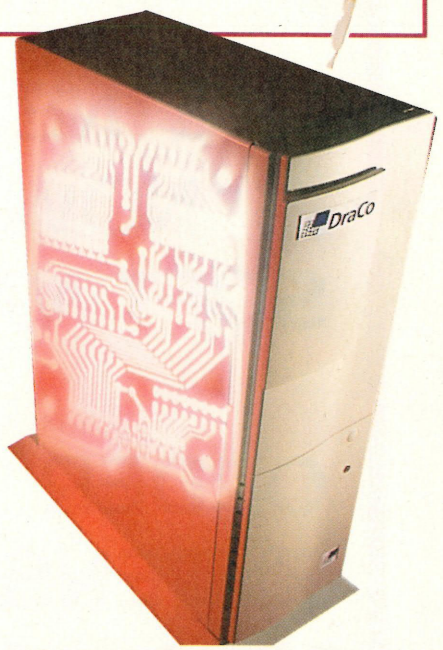
Aside from the system performance, the price tag itself is bound to attract many a serious Amiga fan, with the basic Draco retailing cheaper than an Amiga 4000 running an 060 accelerator. Not bad for a fully-featured digital video box with the potential for full off-line editing, CD quality audio, broadcast quality digital video effects, and much more besides.

Look at the opposition from the likes of Quantel's Paintbox and various Mac systems and you'll discover the Draco's asking price is tiny in comparison. The only other question, especially in relation to newcomers, is ease of use.

Although generally no more daunting than the average Amiga, there is one aspect of the MovieShop environment that could see some improvement, namely the application of DVEs. To achieve DVEs MovieShop employs a Reverse Polish Notation system to stack and process DVEs on an almost unlimited collection of video clips simultaneously. For the novice, it must be said the process can present something of a hurdle. It would be nice if MacroSystem implemented a GUI in the style of MultiLayer specifically for DVE design.

As for the system as a whole, there are no complaints whatsoever. The beta version tested arrived with all the necessary bits separate from the tower, with one piece of A4 listing the various connections. I wired everything up, hit the power button, and it fired-up first time! Vorsprung durch technik – or something similar.

If you're tired of the trail of broken promises surrounding Amiga development, the Draco deserves serious very attention. But if you're serious about audio, video and computer graphics, the Draco is nothing short of a dream machine.



SYSTEM ESSENTIALS

RED = Essential **BLACK** = Recommended

60Khz+

16 Mb
RAM

The bottom line

Produce: Draco
Supplier: MacroSystem
Price: £2750 – with 060, 4Mb video, 4Mb system RAM, quad-speed CD-ROM
£3670 – with all of the above plus Toccata and VLab Motion
Phone: 0049 230 289 177
Fax: 0049 230 280 884

Hard drives sold separately

Ease of use 9
Implementation 9
Value for money 10
Overall 9

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Brave new

Jason Compton reports on the state and survival of the Amiga nation in America

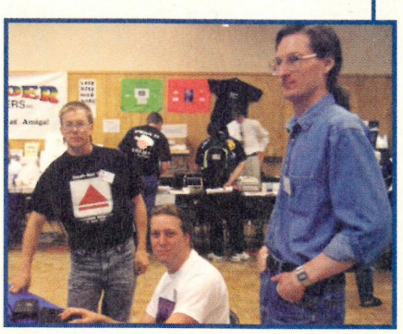
The Amiga may have been born and raised to adolescence by an American upstart company in the form of Amiga Incorporated, but after the transfer to Commodore, the Amiga would enjoy much greater success in Europe than on the continent where it got its start. Poor advertising got the machine off to a bad start, but enough Commodore brand loyalists went with the Amiga to keep the market fresh for the advent of desktop video, which the Amiga has thus far had a firm grasp on.

Serious development was largely found on the North American continent for a number of years, but attrition and more lucrative markets have squashed some companies and lured others away. In some areas of Amiga development, most notably the high-end graphics card market, North America is completely reliant on European products, having no home-grown card to consider.

The arrival of each new day seems to bring more and more television and print ads for rival platforms. Confusion over North American distribution rights and policies have only thrown the market into more chaos.

Perhaps the best way to start answering the question, 'where exactly do we stand?' is with a qualified 'Not as bad as it looks.' After all, some things have actually improved measurably over the past few months, namely the availability of general-interest printed Amiga magazines. For a time there was only one, but the introduction of this publication into the market as well as the revival of Amiga Game Zone has made the situation a bit more tolerable.

Where some software developers have failed or given up, others press onward. Consultron, manufacturers of the astoundingly useful CrossDOS and CrossMAC filesystem packages, are still keeping their heads above water. President Leonard Poma reports that his company's sales are down over the past two years and that there hasn't been a marked improvement since Escom's April acquisition of the Amiga which ended a year of total uncertainty. Still, sales in the

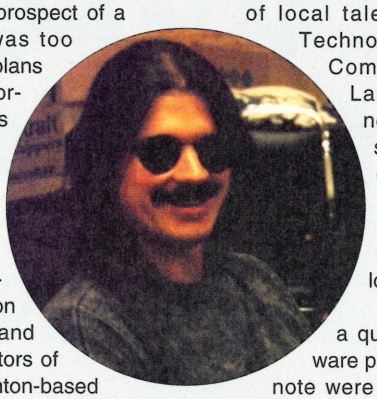


Some of the crew of AmiTrix Development

The view of the Amiga Convention '95 show floor

AmiJAM '95

The Amiga Users of Calgary (AMUC) held a successful AmiJAM in 1993, but the prospect of a show in the summer of 1994 was too uncomfortable for the group. The plans went through for 1995 after the formation of Amiga Technologies increased user confidence.



Dave Haynie kicks back during an autographing session for his video

Booked into the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's show floor were Wonder Computers, the aforementioned Canadian dealer/distributor/software development company, Oregon Research, publishers of Termite and On The Ball as well as the distributors of HiSoft products, AmiTrix, an Edmonton-based Amiga development and distribution company, local dealers Software Supermart and The Computer Shop, and Spots, a local Internet service provider with active Amiga support. In addition to booking dealers for the show floor, AMUC brought speakers to the show, made up of local talent, Steve Vetzal, Information Technology Division Head for Wonder Computers, Dave Haynie and Dale Larson, former Commodore engineers, and myself. Dave Haynie's speeches brought the biggest crowds, and they were rewarded with a look at a prototype board for Nyx, the AAA development machine. Sadly, Dave's board no longer works.

Wonder sprawled across nearly a quarter of the show floor, with software piled high off the tables. Of particular note were the products they acquired from New Horizons, most importantly DesignWorks, the structured drawing package, enhanced to version 1.1 by Lazarus Engineering, the Wonder sister software development company. Oregon Research brought

The AmiJAM '95 panel discussion team

their entire Amiga product line and Bob Luneski, the president, spoke of an upcoming refit to On The Ball, the personal organiser package recently acquired from Pure Logic Software. Termite 1.1, the modem terminal program, was available, complete with updated manual.

AmiTrix was showing AmigaLink, the floppy-port networking system it recently acquired distribution rights for. Also on display were the SCSI-TV and SCSI-570, the full SCSI interfaces for the CDTV and A570 that the AmiTrix engineers devised.

The show wound down with a panel discussion made up of Brant Coghlan of AmiTrix, Dale Larson, Dave Haynie, Steve Vetzal and Steve Cockwell from Wonder, and myself. It crystallised the mood of the show, which was one of 'strong concern.' Amiga users are looking for fast action and inspiring decisions, and to date have not been getting what they're looking for.

Also discussed was what the panel would like to see for future development of the Amiga line. PowerPC was a virtually unanimous choice. As Dave Haynie put it: "it will be the only RISC chip with a chance to be priced as a commodity item."

Despite attendance in the hundreds (registered attendance did not break 400, according to reports), the exhibitors were pleased and the organisers were too tired to be concerned. Show admittance was free, and many people came and went without checking in.

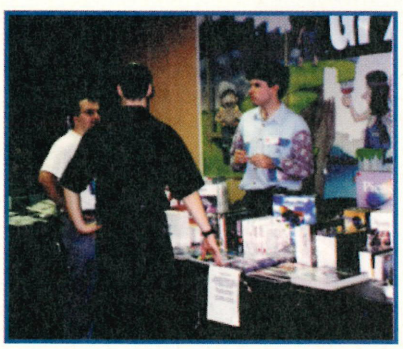
Everyone went home happy, and most people were just glad to be in an environment with so much Amiga enthusiasm and energy.

world of Amigas

high-end market where cross-platform disk sharing is a must have kept the company going and able to support its product line.

Standing in contrast to proud veteran Consultron are new arrivals Phantom Development, publishers of Amiga software. When asked why he decided to get into the Amiga market in its current state, President Christopher Aldi replied simply: "I hate Windows. This is the business I want to be in. Maybe I'm stupid."

First off the Phantom lines is Digital Quill, a high-powered, visually polished text editor by Timothy Aston, and soon to follow will be Hell Pigs, a monstrously large adventure that can be best described as a cross between King's Quest 6 and Zak McCracken and the Alien Mindbenders – with big guns. Classica, the Croatian team developing Hell Pigs, plan an Amiga floppy version, an Amiga CD-ROM version with full motion video clips, as well as a PC conversion.



The manager of GfxBase tries to clear off his table into the shopping bags of the duo in front of him

In between these stark comparisons sits Nova Design, the three-man software company famous for ImageFX, the professional image manipulation package. They survived the collapse and sale of GVP by taking their ball and finding somewhere else to play, so to speak. Upon release of ImageFX 2.0, Nova found their own independent distribution channels rather than publishing through GVP, as they had done in the past.

Many areas of North America have seen their dealerships shrink, consolidate, or disappear altogether. Indeed, I am constantly reminded that Mexico City, the world's largest metropolis, has only one Amiga dealership. What, then, fuels Wonder Computers, a dealership chain that has grown from one store to five in the past few years, has instituted a corporate division for infrastructure management and product distribution, and recently added a software development team to its repertoire?

Based in Ottawa, Canada, with stores in Ottawa, Toronto, London, Montreal, and Vancouver, the answer seems to lie in dedication and making the right decisions in the right places, as well as having an impressive enough presence to instil confidence in the user base.

Each of Wonder's five stores is Amiga- ➤

American dream

In short, there are a lot of questions in the North American market and no easy answers. The decision to spend no marketing dollars this year was a difficult one to accept for many. While the argument is certainly true that this is not the strongest market historically for the Amiga, the potential-and existing-customer base cannot be ignored.

At this point, sitting back, sipping that cup of coffee you just bought and riding out the situation is not a bad idea. Gilles Bourdin of Amiga Technologies PR has asked North Americans to send him articles mentioning the Amiga in major press publications. Former engineers such as Dale Larson have interviewed with ISE, the new subcontractor for Amiga engineering. The questions are not easy, but the answers, slowly, are forthcoming.

And even more importantly, the dealer and development support is still here. Yes, there is no more GVP to flagship the Amiga on this continent. But the community survives. The users, developers and dealers are doing as much as they can, as evidenced by their continuing dedication and support. It is now Amiga Technologies' market to make or break.

Dale Larson shares another rendition of Wild Thing

The assembled cast of the AmiJAM '95 speakers, presenters, and organisers

Ian and Steve, two die-hard Amiga fans at the recent Amiga bash

➤

only, barring the occasional video product. Wonder's deal for distribution rights of the Quasar Distribution product line (primarily consisting of Chris Hames' DirWork and PC-Task packages) put them on the map, and their purchase of the New Horizons 'B-Pack' of software, including DesignWorks, QuickWrite, and QuarterBack added a ready-made, if slightly dated, suite of a dozen products they could develop or sell outright at their option. (QuarterBack has already been sold to Quasar.) Wonder's services even include classes on the Amiga, held in a small computer lab environment.

There certainly is no lack of interest in Amiga distribution on this continent, as demonstrated by the half-dozen companies that participated in Amiga Technologies' impromptu meeting in July which attempted, unsuccessfully, to implement a solid distribution arrangement in North America.

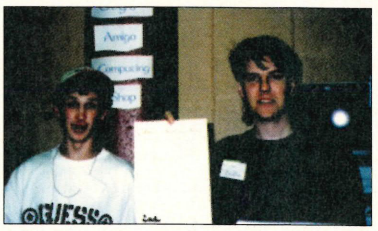
DISTRIBUTION ROLE

Alex Amor of Creative Equipment International, who has repeatedly tried to secure an agreement for distribution, says he is "anxiously awaiting the release of the Amiga Technologies line of machines in North America." It is unclear what role a distributor would play – it has been made clear by Amiga Technologies that they will not spend a dollar on North American marketing in 1995, and at the recent UK press and dealer conference they said they were interested in a 'partner' rather than a 'distributor.' This could dramatically change the way the Amiga is presented to the market-when an agreement is reached.

What truly drives the Amiga market isn't just the software developers or the dealers or the distributors. In fact, I daresay they're secondary. Amiga users have stepped up where software developers, distributors, and dealers, until very recently, have been unwilling to tread, organising and holding Amiga shows to keep the dream alive and to retain active support for their machines, even if it means being a part of that support. AC

Amiga Convention '95

Just over a month later, on the other side of Canada, Amiga Convention '95 kicked off. On paper the two shows don't look all that different. Dale Larson and Jason Compton booked as speakers. Wonder Computers to anchor the dealer floor. Two days, ending in a panel discussion. But just as every city has its own flavour, every Amiga show has its own lasting impressions.

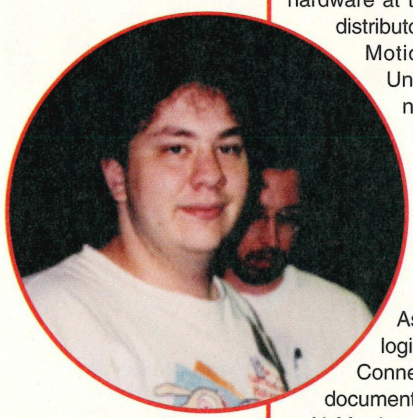


Garnet and Mark – Oby's Amigo Computing Shop

For one, AC '95 took a different approach to the off-floor entertainment. While AmiJAM was very heavy on speeches and presentations, booking two different rooms through most hours of the day, AC had only one presentation room, which had demo, music, and graphics competitions in addition to the booked speakers. The organisers plan to make the winning entries freely available on Aminet FTP.

On the floor, the dealer presence was more noticeable, perhaps because they were cramped more closely together – a testament to the number that were booked. Dealers Oby's Amiga Computing Shop, GfxBase, and National Amiga were on hand with products to sell. Pre'Spect Technologies had their own display of products including the MultiFace II and IV cards, which they now manufacture on license from bsc, the original development company. AsimWare were on hand with their AsimCDFS CD-ROM filesystem, complete with CD32 emulation, which president Paul Reeves took delight in demonstrating by playing hours of Super Stardust CD32.

While he did not man a dealer table for long, Hal Greenlee had flyers on hand and on display for the Micronik 4000 Tower, a custom Amiga 4000 tower system manufactured in Germany with a special daughterboard offering expanded slots for the machine. As mentioned, Wonder Computers had a large display of software and hardware at their tables, including enhanced New Horizons software. Rick Sulpizio, distributor of the MacroSystem Germany product line in Canada, had the V-Lab Motion set up for impressive displays of real-time non-linear editing. Unfortunately, he did not have the Draco 060-based Amiga-compatible non-linear editing computer with him. (See the exclusive review of the Draco in this issue – ed.)



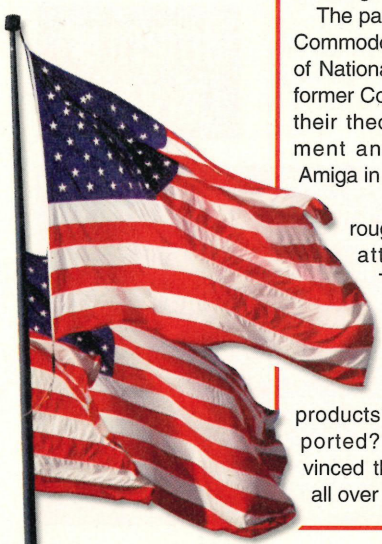
Most dealers kept a cheery disposition as the 12-hour days marched on. Oby's sold every copy of Gloom they brought (greatly assisted by the fact that they had a two-player networked display set up for attendees to play), and National Amiga covered the entire cost of the trip the first day.

Dale Larson, who now makes his living as President of Intangible Assets Manufacturing, gave his presentation on networking Amigas – a logical choice, since his company produces Amiga Envoy 2.0 and the book Connect Your Amiga!, as well as publishing Dave Haynie's Deathbed Vigil documentary and DiskSalv utility.

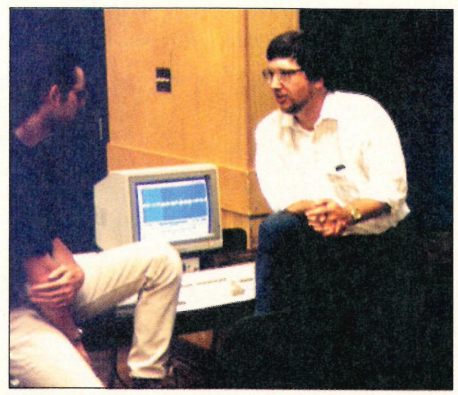
Al Mackey of MegaBall fame gave a stunning art demonstration on Digital Creations' Brilliance paint program. I made the mistake of leaving the room when a rough sketch was on the screen, and when I returned two minutes later, a full-colour cartoon drawing greeted me.

My speech was a consolidated version of the two speeches on emulation I gave at AmiJAM. The crowd indulged my strange desires to play old Commodore 64 games on Amiga screens.

The panel discussion closed the event with Dale Larson, Peter Cherna (also late of Commodore and now employed on PC development at Scala), Greg Scott, president of National Amiga, and myself. Most of the audience's questions were aimed at the former Commodore folk, feeling out their theories for future development and the potential for the Amiga in the marketplace.



Paid attendance was roughly that of the registered attendance at AmiJAM. Those that came had essentially the same questions and concerns as the first time around – when will we see new products? When will we be supported? When will we be convinced that this isn't Commodore all over again?



Bob Luneski (centre), President of Oregon Research

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Preaching to the converted

Transparently import any picture format into any program. Sounds like a good idea to

Neil Mohr

Typical – Commodore create a way for a program to be able to load any type of file type it needs to, and no one uses it. What is needed is a program that will sit in between the datatypes and the application program, quietly converting any files that are loaded.

Datachrome is meant to do exactly that. Once activated it will intercept any load request, see if the file type being loaded is a supported datatype, and if it is, Datachrome will convert the file to a normal IFF version of that file which is what your program actually ends up loading.

In use this can cause problems. Firstly, you must make sure you remove the icon datatype from the Devs:Datatype drawer. Otherwise, when you open a window on Workbench, Datachrome will intercept every icon file and convert it to an IFF file. This is then passed to Workbench which, not surprisingly, gets very confused.

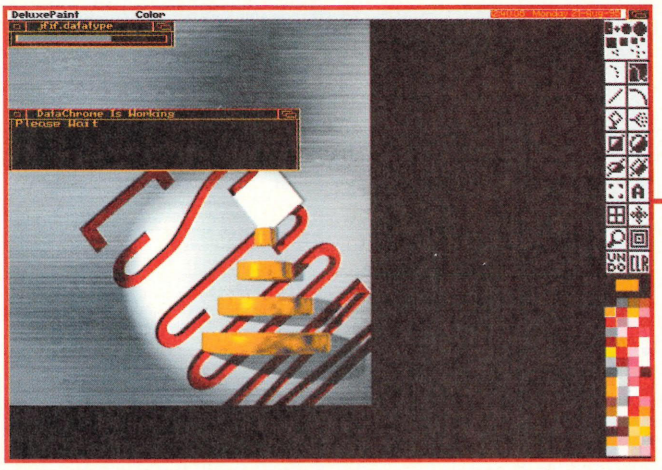
INTERCEPTING

Another side effect is that any programs that use external graphics will cause Datachrome to intercept the load calls. If you are using a MUI application this can get a little annoying, especially as MUI already supports datatypes.

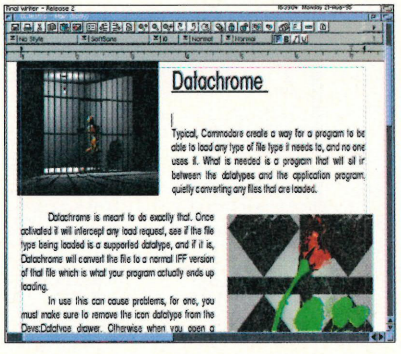
The general side effect is that the Datachrome message requester pops up unexpectedly, which is both annoying and slows the computer down somewhat.

Installation of Datachrome is a breeze, thanks to the standard Amiga installer program, and the fact there are only four files to install. The main Datachrome executable is only 14k, so will fit on a floppy with no problem at all.

The actual Datachrome program is very simple, comprising two tick boxes and two buttons, allowing you to activate Datachrome and disable the conversion requester. It is possible to change the directory where the temporary converted files are stored. This last point is of particular use to hard drive users because you can save precious memory by using the hard drive to store the converted file.



Load Jpegs into DPaint



It's a breeze Final Writer

In general use Datachrome work fine – programs like Final Writer, Dpaint and Brilliance all work perfectly with Datachrome. My main criticism is the actual control program – it is far too basic. For starters, it should have been implemented as a commodity, allowing the usual hot keys to activate and deactivate Datachrome and to pop the GUI to the front. It would also be very handy if you could have a list of datatypes to exclude from conversion, along with a list of programs Datachrome should ignore.

Due to the problems with Datachrome intercepting all the load calls, it is not possible to leave it running in the background as it just interferes with other programs far too often. Datachrome does what it says it should do, the problem is, it could do it a little better. AC

Available datatypes

Included with Datachrome:	Other datatypes:
Jpeg	Tiff
GIF	Targa
PCX	PNG
Windows BMP	Reko
MacPict	X BitMap
Window Icon	DeBox
	Sun Raster

What are datatypes

Datatypes were introduced with version 3.0 of the Amiga's operating system and are based on the object-oriented design methodology, part of which includes the need for logic normalisation.

What does that mean? I hear some of you cry. Well basically, why should every programmer, for every program, have to write their own code to handle loading different file formats. Surely it would be far better if one person wrote the load routines and allowed any program to access them.

Datatypes allow programmers to use a single interface to load any supported type of file format, some of which may or may not be known to the programmer now or in the future.

The PNG datatype is a prime example of this. Say a program was written last year that supported the loading of picture datatypes. That programmer could not have possibly known anything about the PNG datatype, as it didn't even exist. Yet with the release of the PNG datatype, their program can load PNG pictures just as easily as if they were IFFs.

SYSTEM ESSENTIALS

RED = Essential **BLACK** = Recommended

3.0 Workbench

Hard drive

The bottom line

Product: DataChrome
Supplier: Chroma
Price: £29.95
Phone: 01328 862693

Ease of use	**8**
Implementation	**5**
Value for money	**7**
Overall	**6**

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[1MB] Minimum Memory
[AGA] For AGA Machines
[030] Minimum Processor
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U655 AUTOSTEREOGRAM v4B New version of the popular stereogram maker. [WB2+]
U656 SUPER DMS v2 A powerful interface for DMS. [WB2+]
U658 DOPUS v5>>>>v5.11 UPGRADE Upgrade your **original** DOpus to v5.11.
U661 PAGESTREAM v3G>>>>3H upgrade to PGS v3H [2D]
U662 MUI v3B Beta version of MUI version 3. [WB2+] [HD]
U663 TURBOSUITE v3.3 catalogue your disks [WB2+]
U664 BASIC ELECTRONICS v1.1 want to learn the basics of electronics? Here is a disk to show you how. [Not AGA]
U666 IMAGE DESK v1.60 Image Desk is the best picture thumbnail program on the PD market. [WB2+]
U668 VIRUS WORKSHOP v5.4 latest virus killer [WB2+]
U669 VIRUS CHECKER v6.57 another virus killer [WB2+]
U670 TERM v4.4 00 Term is the most comprehensive communications package in PD, rivals any commercial release. [3D]
U671 TERM v4.4 030 version for 030 processors [3D]
U672 ORGANISER BITS a collection of supplements for Digita's Organiser. [needs Digita Organiser]
U674 ZXAM SPECTRUM EMULATOR v2B NEW Spectrum Emulator. You need an **AGA Amiga or 020+ processor**.
U675 DIALLING CODES v2.11 want to know a telephone code? This also allows you to type a code and find the area. [WB2+]
U677 EASY CALC v2B superb spreadsheet program [WB2+]
U678 STEREO OPTICON produce 3D (true 3D!) stereoptical images that are viewed through 3D glasses similar to Jaws 3D! Original!
U679 AREXX GUIDE v2A want to learn Arexx? [WB2+]
U680 MOSAIC v2B latest version of the Web browser. [WB2+] [TCP 4]
U681 SHAPE SHIFTER v3.1 is the much-raved latest version of the superb Apple Mac emulator [020+][WB 2.1+][4 MB+][HD Recommended]
U682 VARK'S CLI TOOLS VOL 8 50 latest CLI tools - get this!
U683 IMAGE STUDIO v2.2 50 latest CLI tools - get this!
U684 ESSENTIAL AMINET 8 50 latest CLI tools - get this!
U685 MIDI TRIGGER 50 latest CLI tools - get this!

LATEST GAMES

GM238 LAST LAP v1 Excellent racing game for one or two players.
GM239 ULTIMATE STAR TREK Quite old but a great strategy game by Tobias Richter. [2 Disks]
GM242 PSYCHUEL Alien Breed style shoot em up [WB2+]
GM245 THE PYRAMID GAME A puzzle platform game. [2 Disks]
GM247 KLONDIKE III This is a special version of Klondike for disk users only! [6 Disks] [3MB]
GM248 DELUXE PACMAN AGA Wow a pacman game by the author of Deluxe Galaga.
GM249 DELUXE PACMAN ECS
GM258 BATTLESHIPS A very playable game by the Assassins.
GM259 EGG SCRAMBLE Mad, mad game. Very colourful platformer.
GM260 GEMZ addictive puzzle game
GM263 CODENAME NANO superb thrust game. Get it!
GM264 SCORTCHED TANKS v1.85
GM265 DATASTORM [2 Disks]
GM266 BLITZ BOMBERS the popular multi-player bombers game
GM267 NIMBLE! another addictive puzzle game
GM268 EXCELLENT CARD GAMES III A set of different card games on here. [AGA]
GM269 MASTER BLASTER II decent bomb game
GM270 TRONICS tron/light phasers game. Addictive
GM271 SUPER COMBAT 3 this is a two player version of cannon fooder. Superb graphics - Object to kill other player. [3 D]
GM272 DR. STRANGE 2 top notch platform romp
GM273 REBELLION an asteroids clone with a difference
GM274 R3 is a 1/2 player smooth scrolling thrust game
GM275 MARATHON 2 player action game
GM276 THE DEVILS ABODE written by the author of War of the Worlds. This is a 3D horror adventure. Decent.
GM277 SPEED - DOOMER 2 version 2 of the Doom clone. More graphics, finer detail (walls etc) and much faster scrolling. [AGA]
GM278 DNX erm...blatent Super Stardust tunnel game! [AGA][2 D]
GM279 ALIEN BASH II very similar to Chaos Engine....very good.
GM280 SKID RACER car racing game, not bad.
GM281 DUCK DODGERS great platform game with ducks
GM282 TRAP 'EM from the author of the decent Jump 'em
GM283 ZOMBIES Alien Breed style shoot-em-up [AGA]
GM284 DARK ANGEL Flashback style, platform in a power complex
GM285 BLACK DAWN V another version of the great adventure
GM286 GALLEONS 2 player 3D shoot-em-up
GM287 ENGINES 2 player thrust game [WB2+]

HOT NEW DEMOS

D203 MYSTIC "IMPOSSIBLE IMPOSSIBILITY" Winner of the Primavera party 95. Get this! [2 Disks] [4MB+] [AGA]
D204 TRSI "ANHALONIUM LENINI Quite a decent demo from TRSI, this time! [AGA]
D213 PARALLEX/CCN "DEEP" Winner of the Gathering 95 [2 Disks] [HD] [4MB+] [AGA]
D216 FACULTY "MAN ON MOON" Very good demo from Faculty - needs loads of Mem! [4 Disks] [HD] [6MB+] [AGA]
D217 ABYSS "DRUGSTORE" [2 Disks]
D218 OXYRON "TEMPLE OF DECEASE"
D219 SANITY "ROOTS II" wow! A very decent demo release [020+]
D220 FREEZERS "DREAM WALKER" [2 Disks]
D221 FREEZERS "LECH" AGA won the Ram Jam charts "best demo in 1995". Loads of the same routines - tunnels etc.
D222 ARTWORK "GREENDAY" Won a recent party in Germany - very decent all round. [AGA] [HD] [3 Disks]
D223 IMPACT DK "MELCHOIR" [HD] [6MB+]
D226 SUPREME "CHAOS" [HD]
D227 SCOOPEX "ALIEN" Scoopex are BACK in the '90s with a good demo release! [AGA]
D228 STELLAR "HUMAN" Stellar release "Human excrement in ....", lets say no more!
D229 VIVIAT "SLOVIAK" [2 Disks]

Latest demos continued.....

D230 MELON "PLANET M" another classic release from the guys at melon. Released at a party in the Netherlands recently.
D231 AXIS "PICTURE BOOK" must be one of the best demo releases for many months, comprehensive. [AGA] [4 Disks]
D233 AIDSYNTHETIC DESIGN "TENEBRA"
D234 INTERACTIVE "ABSTRACT" another release from the party in the Netherlands. Excellent routines. [HD] [4 MB]
D235 MELON DESIGN "BAYGON" superb cartoony style demo!
D236 EMBASSY "THRILLED" Assembly '95 release [HD][2 Disks]
D237 SILENTS "FRUIT MACHINE" superb Assembly '95 demo!
D238 VANITY "AMAZED" stunning new demo from Vanity
D239 OXYGENE "CONTROL" from the G.A.S.P. party '95. [2 D]
D240 PARALLEX "ZIF" G.A.S.P. winner. Good. [2 D] [AGA] [HD]

MISCELLANEOUS

GRAPEVINE 21 superb disk magazine from LSD [2 Disks]
GRAPEVINE 22 call for date (September?)
DEADLOCK 9 superb disk magazine by Anathema/Narcosis
NFA WORD 5 disk magazine from NFA [AGA]
NFA WORD 6 disk magazine from NFA [AGA]
NFA WORD 7 call for release date and details (August)
NFA BODYSHOP 8 [AGA] [3 Disks]
SHERILYN FENN SLIDESHOW [AGA]
PHEOBE CATES SLIDESHOW [AGA]
ERIKA ELENAIK SLIDESHOW [AGA]
NIKI TAYLOR SLIDESHOW [2 D] [AGA]
TINY TOONS CLIPART superb hand drawn clipart
NFA BIG GIRLS II [AGA] [3 Disks]
X-FILES GUIDE guide to the TV Show
GCSE MATHS EXAM PAPERS GCSE help
TRAVEL GUIDE guide for avid world travellers [2 Disks]
UFO : FINDING THE TRUTH [2 Disks]
UFO : FINDING THE TRUTH 3 paranormal and UFO stuff
ALIENS CONFIDENTIAL 2 UFO and paranormal guide
WEATHER GUIDE [3 Disks]
LUCIFERS "UNHOLY INNOCENCE" [2 D]
LUCIFERS "WICKED GRIMOIRE" bizarre cult stuff
LUCIFERS "BOOK OF SHADES" [2 D]
STAR TREK GUIDE learn about Star Trek [6 Disks]
ED060 KIDS DISK 7 another under 5's program
SCOOPEX "ARTCORE" Doom-like gallery slideshow! [AGA]
NFA SOURCE 'N CODE 2 AMOS source 'disk' magazine

MAIN LIBRARY

MORE UTILITIES

U076 WB3 HD INSTALL DISK Prep, format and install WB to your Hard Drive. [WB3]
U230 TOOLS DAEMON V2.1 Adds tools to your WB Menu. [WB2+]
U239 RE-ORG v3.11 Re-organise your disks/hard disk. [WB2+]
U302 VIEWTEK v2.01 Viewtek can show many picture formats including JPEG and the AGA screen modes. [WB2+]
U317 ACTION REPLAY PRO Action Replay for the A1200 [AGA]
U318 VIDEOTRACKER DATA Loads of data files for use within Videotracker. [4 D]
U349 LIBRARIES + DATATYPES Do you ever need a library? Here's a collection!
U352 MAGIC WB v1.2P The lastest version of the 8-colour icon replacer. Use this with our Extras disks for superb results! [WB2+]
U359 TELETEXT v1.20 Create a teletext receiver [WB2+]
U376 POWERCACHE v37.115 Speed up your Hard Drive access with this cache program. Versions for 00, 020, 030 and 040. [WB2+]
U379 DESKTOP MAGIC v2.0 This program allows you to assign sounds to Workbench functions like mouse clicking etc. [WB2+]
U408 DISK SALV v2.31 This is the best disk/file repairer in the Public Domain. Undelete/salvage files and repair disks.
U416 AMIGA DOS GUIDE v1 Learn Amiga DOS with this program.
U426 EPU STAKKER v1.70 double your hard drive space! [WB2+]
U434 EDWORD PRO v5 Edword Pro is the most comprehensive and easy to use word processor on the PD market. [WB2+]
U440 SNOOPDOS v3 Use Snoopdos to monitor program activity. An ideal tool to find out what libraries are needed [WB2+]
U453 MAIN ACTOR v1.55 An excellent module animation player. Buy it. [WB2+]
U454 VIDEOTRACKER 2 AGA The AGA demomaker.
U467 T. U.D. E. v1.0D The Ultimate Degrader and Enchancer can be used to degrade A1200/4000's to use WB1.3, remove fast mem etc.
U475 RELOKICK v1.4A FINAL Relokick is the most popular degrader around. Forget the fake v1.41, this is the real thing.
U479 MSDOS FOR AMIGADOS Allows you to use the MS DOS commands on your Amiga. Also use the MSDOS star ".*" [WB2+]
U480 HD GAMES INSTALLER II Install Jungle Strike, Aladdin, Mortal Kombat II, Ruff 'n Tumble and about 12 more!!
U487 BIRTHDATE HISTORY v2.21 Check events that happened on your birthday!
U499 M.U.I. V2.3 Create GUInterfaces. Needed for Mosaic. [WB2+]
U502 GBLANKER V3.6 020 An optimised version for 020/30/40/60 CPU's. [WB3+]
U510 FINAL FAX/SUPER DUPER v3.13 Final Fax allows you to control GPFax from Final Writer, sending a fax from a normal document.
U514 DISK STICK v1.1 A disk labelling program.
U517 FINAL WRITER 030 PATCH Excellent! A patch which turns the release 3 Final Writer into an optimised 030 version. Get this!!
U521 ADDRESS PRINT v4 Store addresses and print them to labels.
U523 DOPUS MAGIC COMPANIAN Loads of buttons, AREXX scripts for Dopus. [WB2+]
U532 ALL NEW FINAL WRAPPER v3 Final Wrapper was the utility that hit Final Writer users last year. This is the very latest version.
U533 CAR DATA ANALYST Monitor and test your car's performance. First for the Amiga.
U543 TOOLS MANAGER Allows you to have a "dock" of icons on Wbench. [2 Disks][WB2+]
U550 VMM v3 Virtual memory program. [WB2+] [NEEDS MMU] [020+]
U553 GFX CONVERTOR v1.7 Decent graphics convertor. Loads about 10 different file formats and saves GIF, ILBM, PCX, POSTSCRIPT, JPEG. [WB2+]
U554 SOUND BOX v1.97 Coverts sound samples from IFF, RAW, WAV, MAESTRO, VOC, AIFF and MAUD to any of the supported formats. ie. load in as IFF save as WAV or load as WAV andsave as IFF. [WB2+]
U560 DELITRACKER II v2.1 A great module player. [WB2+] [2 D]

More utilities continued.....

U564 EXOTIC RIPPER v3.1 module and sample ripper. [WB2+]
U568 LOTTERY WINNER V2.0 good lottery predictor. [WB2+]
U576 BLITZ BLANKER V2.5 Blitz Blanker is another tool that requires the services of MUI (U499). Modulerised screen blanker. [WB2+]
U581 PAGESTREAM 3F>G PTCH This patch vastly improves Pagestream 3F. If gives you landscape non-postscript printing! [2 D]
U588 PC-TASK V3.10 All new PC Task v3. Demo version.
U589 MP LOTTERY V2 Another good lottery program.
U592 VARK CLI UTILS 7 All the latest CLI utilities here!
U594 AMIGA FAX V1.42 Send/receive faxes on your Amiga. [WB2+]
U606 ESSENTIAL AMINET 5 recent Aminet uploads. [WB2+]
U607 ESSENTIAL AMINET 4 more recent Aminet uploads. [WB2+]
U617 HD GAMES INSTALL 3 Over 20 games such as Super Skidmarks, Sensible World of Soccer to be installed. [WB2+]
U618 TEXTURE STUDIO v1.02 For Imagine users - adapt those textures. [WB2+]
U619 BALLS! Superb and powerful Lottery program. [AGA]
U623 AMIGA CD-ROM GUIDE Guide to loads of Amiga CDs - Amigaguide doc. [WB2+]
U628 ICONIAN v2.91 Superb AGA icon editor. [AGA]
U629 DIY REKO v2 Construct Klondike cards. [WB2+] [IMAGE FX 2]
U634 FRODO v1.5 The very best C64 emulator for the Amiga. Relive the old games with this. [WB2+] [020+]
U635 DOPUS UTILS 2 Loads of utils for Directory Opus 4/5. More scripts, Arexx routines etc etc [WB2+] [Dopus]
U636 TYPING DEMON Learn how to type very quickly !
U638 ESSENTIAL AMINET 7 Aminet utilities. [WB2+]
U645 FINAL WRITER v3 PCH REV 7 For 030+ processors - speed increase Final Writer version 3.

MORE GAMES

GM58 BLACK DAWN II a popular 3D adventure
GM67 SCRABBLE the classic board game
GM78 STARWOIDS thrust and oids mixed [1MB] [2 DISKS]
GM97 TOP HAT WILLY an Amiga "Jet Set Willy" rip-off. Addictive!
GM105 DYNAMITE WARRIORS 2
GM118 CHANEQUES yes, two please!! A Lemmings type game. Direct your little men (with different skills) to the end. [2 Disks]
GM123 MEGABLOCK V2 the best Tetris games on the Amiga.
GM125 KELLOGS LAND WOW! The very best PD platform game ever! [AGA]
GM126 SUPER MEGA FRUITS a good Fruit Machine game.
GM127 ZAXXON superb! The C64 classic now comes to the Amiga!
GM130 FISHY FISHY eat the small fish, avoid the sharks and grow!
GM132 SAMURAI SHOWDOWN this is an amusing Street Fighter clone. Good! [AGA]
GM136 CYBERMAN wow! A 3D pacman clone. Very decent indeed.
GM138 INTERNAL COMBUSTION great skidmarks-esque multi-player racing game
GM141 MADHOUSE a graphical adventure game [2 DISKS]
GM147 DELUXE GALAGA v2.51 must be the best PD shoot-em-up ever made!
GM194 BATTLE DUEL AGA battle duel is a SUPERB multi-player artillery type game. [AGA]
GM195 BATTLE DUEL ECS ECS version of the above [WB2+]
GM226 GLOOM A demo version of the forthcoming Doom clone. [AGA]

LATEST CARDS

KL099 Premier League '95 Cards
KL100 Females Cards
KL103 Dreams Cards
KL104 Dreams II Cards
KL105 VT Chicks Cards 18+
KL106 Erika Eleniak Cards
KL107 Wild Life Cards
KL108 Album Covers Cards
KL109 Wild Life II Cards
KL110 Landscapes Cards
KL112 Pleasure Cards 18+
KL113 Starkers Cards
KL114 Everton Winners Cards
KL115 NFA Mask Cards
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KL117 Birds 1 Cards
KL118 Birds 2 Cards
KL119 Pinnocio Cards
KL120 True Lies Cards
KL121 Airbrush Cards
KL122 Harley Davidson Cards
KL123 Boris Hajime 2 Cards
KL124 Star Wars Galaxy Cards
KL125 Renders Cards
KL126 Busen Cards 18+
KL127 Anna Nicole Smith Cards
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KL129 Body Piercing Cards 18+
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KL132 Flintstones the Movie Cards
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KL134 Stargate Cards
KL135 Arnie Cards
KL136 Modern Life Cards
KL137 Time Cop Cards
KL138 Speccy 1 Cards
KL139 Speccy 2 Cards
KL140 Jap Anim Cards
KL141 Toonies Cards
KL142 Bikini Babes 1 Cards
KL143 Manga Maniax 2 Cards
KL144 Imagine Cards
KL145 Bill Graham Cards
KL146 World Atlas Cards
KL147 Aviation Cards
KL148 Scenic Cards
KL149 Lion King 2 Cards
KL150 Wildlife 2 Cards
KL151 X-Files Cards
KL152 X-Files 2 Cards
KL153 Guardian Cards
KL154 Lion King III Cards
KL155 M.G. Cars Cards
KL155 Safari Cards
KL156 Buildings Cards
KL157 Big Cats Cards
KL158 Killer Instinct Cards
KL159 The Sky Cards
KL160 Dogs Cards
KL161 Places Cards
KL162 Danii & Kylie Cards
KL163 Deep Space 9 Cards
KL164 Misc Art Cards
KL165 Texture Cards
KL166 Fish Cards
KL167 Batman 3 Cards
KL168 Voyager Cards

F1 LICENCEWARE

F1-14 TOTS TIME £3.99 Ideal for younger users
F1-31 POWERBASE v3.3 £3.99 database
F1-33 POWER PLANNER £3.99 personal organiser
F1-41 GRAND PRIX MANAGER £3.99 run your own grand prix racing team. 1994 season. Recommended.
F1-50 GUIDE TO AMOS v2 £4.99 absolute beginners guide to Amos. Superb guide to help you understand!
F1-56 GIDDY 2 £3.99 Sequel to Giddy.
F1-62 JUNIOR ARTIST £3.99 Learn how to draw
F1-67 BUBBLE TRUBBLE £4.99
F1-68 AQUANAUTA £3.99 superb game. Get this!
F1-74 AMIGA ASSIST £3.99 beginners guide
F1-76 OBSTICKLE £3.99 superb platform romp!
F1-81 AQUAKON AGA £5.99 A little like Doom on water.
F1-83 IMAGE COMPRESSOR £3.99 for AMOS coders
F1-84 WORD PLUS+ PRO v1.3 £4.99 Want to know a word - get this! Used to sell for £14.95!
F1-86 LEGIONS OF DAWN £4.99 Sci-Fi Dungeon Master type game. Choice of several characters and loads of weapons.
F1-87 LEGIONS OF DAWN £4.99 hard drive version
F1-102 AURIGA £4.99 very decent Strider clone

More games continued.....

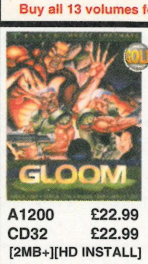
GM150 ROCKETZ V2.25 superb AGA only 2-player thrust/shoot-em-up game. One of the most addictive multi-player games ever! [AGA]
GM164 CYBERGAMES excellent! A street-fighter clone with gore! This is probably the best beat-em-up games in the Public Domain. [2D]
GM169 MASH Similar to Team 17s new Wormz game. A subtle cross between Lemmings and Cannon Fodder.
GM174 TANKS! excellent tank-war sim
GM176 ALIEN GENOCIDE errr. A Operation Wolf clone? [2 DISKS]
GM178 DOOMER a good Doom clone for the Amiga [AGA] [HD]
GM180 CARNAGE blood, guts and gore and more!
GM183 PSSST AGA remember Psst on the Speccy? Well this is the Amiga version!
GM184 SCREECH another car racing game
GM185 BOARD GAMES Cluedo is the main game here
GM187 FEARS 2 AGA wow! Much better. This is a demo of the finished commercial version! More aliens.
GM188 CARD GAMES DELUXE A program that allows you load and use your Klondike cards! Blackjack and another on here [3 Disks] [2MB]
GM191 CHILD MURDERER AGA not as bad as it sounds! A graphical adventure to solve the mystery to clear your name [4 Disks]
GM192 CHILD MURDERER ECS [3 Disks]
GM193 SPRINGTIME
GM227 WAR OF THE WORLDS 4 A virtual reality program! [AGA]
GM228 KING HIGH A new card game

MAGIC WB EXTRAS

These contain icons, backdrops, drawers, tools manager brushes and docks and much much more!

Magic WB Extras volume 1	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 2	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 3	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 4	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 5	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 6	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 7	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 8	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 9	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 10	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 11	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 12	**[2 Disks]**
Magic WB Extras volume 13	**[2 Disks]**

Buy all 13 volumes for £23.99 or each volume at £1.98



GLOOM

Gloom is an Amiga Doom-clone that satisfies all expectations. A 1 or 2-player shoot-em-up, with the option of connecting two Amiga's through the null modem cable. The first 'real' Doom game this offers an atmospheric and frightening arena full of different enemies with all the guts and gore you can imagine. Rated 91% in Amiga Format - "smashing". Get this before stocks run out!

A1200 £22.99
CD32 £22.99
[2MB+][HD INSTALL]

Have you been Gloomed?

Fears 2 out late August, same prices as for Gloom. Look out for extra levels for both games out in the next few months!

GRAC v1.10

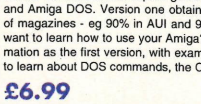
FREE LICENCEWARE

Do you admire the commercial games cush as Monkey Island and other adventure games and wish you could program your own version? With the Graphic Adventure Creature v1.10 you can easily make a point and click adventure game like Relics of Deldroneye. This version fixes bugs in v1 and comes with an extensive manual for your reference. Get this now!

£6.99

BLACKBOARD 4

FREE LICENCEWARE



Part of the new F1 GOLD range this excellent image processor now comes with an extensive fully featured ring bound manual. The new version contains an online help routine, new file formats, new edit facilities, rotate pictures to any angle in 3D, new buffer routines with upto 99 pictures in RAM, new extensive preference links, thumbnail images, mash functions and new GUI frontend!

£8.99

INTRO TO DOS 2

FREE LICENCEWARE

WOW! Version 2 of the superb guide and introduction to Workbench and Amiga DOS. Version one obtained superb grades in a number of magazines - eg 90% in AUI and 92% in Amiga Shopper. Do you want to learn how to use your Amiga? This has twice as much information as the first version, with examples pictures. The easiest way to learn about DOS commands, the CLI or about Workbench.

£6.99

MAGIC PAINT BOX

FREE LICENCEWARE

Magic Paint Box is a superb new paint program for all ages. Mainly aimed at children under 8 years of age this is suitable for parents to easily demonstrate to their children its simplicity yet powerful features. Excellent front end, 84 different painting tools and the ability to print full colour pictures direct from the program to any colour printer. Over 80 different paint functions! Comes with full reference manual.

£6.99

CD-ROM SOFTWARE

KLONDIKE GOLD

Have you entered the race to collect Klondike cards before your friends? Even the Amiga 'scene' has gone Klondike mad! This CD should contain over 250 cards (our aim is for over 275 with many exclusive cards constructed by scene members) all ready-to-run and in LHA format (for BBS and HD use). All categorised into sections all your favourites are here and many more. Also includes Klondike III, Card Games Deluxe, Cardz and tools such as DIY Reko, REKO GIO for Photogenics, REKO datatype etc. This CD is ideal for a collector, someone interested in buying Klondike or any card fan. Superb!

DUE OUT LATE SEPTEMBER **£9.99**

F1 LICENCEWARE
volume one - F1-01 to F1-100

This CD contains the complete collection of F1 Licenceware titles from F1-001 to F1-100. Over 100 titles or more than 200 disks! This CD is worth well over £500, if the disks were bought separately. There is something for everyone on the CD - games, utilities, tools, professional clipart and music, beginners guides, educational programs and much more. Choose from the award winning Blackboard v3 to Junior Artist or from Tots Time to GRAC (the best ever selling F1 title with 100's of copies sold so far). You can blast some aliens with Aquanaut, learn about AMOS through theGuide to Amos, teach your kids how to draw with Junior Artist, make a adventure game with GRAC or use some of the professional music for your games. With a very easy to use AmigaGuide© interface with many of the programs running straight from the CD. **All programmers receive a royalty for every CD sold.**

£32.99

COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE - NOT PD!

F1 LICENCEWARE

PHANTASMAGORIA
pro backgrounds and textures

Textures and backgrounds for video, ray-tracing and image work for the last five years. Their entire collection, consisting of 500+ 24Bit backgrounds and textures, is present on this CD-ROM. There are the very high quality 24Bit JPEG files for video, graphics and multimedia work and Targa's for PC raytracing. No wasted space on this CD-ROM! For instance, no multi-graphics files such as SCI, PCX or even more obscure formats that are found on other texture CD's. A superb and complete collection for Pro's and Amateurs.

COLOUR REFERENCES FOR EVERY IMAGE

brand new release £29.99

HOW TO ORDER INFORMATION

Choose the CDs you want to order, add 75p to the complete cost to cover postage and packing. Then send your cheque or postal order to the address on the other page. You can also pay by credit/debit card.

As you can see from the advert we are working with F1 Licenceware to produce their CD-Rom. We also have a range of other co-operation CDs in the pipeline. If you have an idea for a CD then contact us as soon as possible.

MULTIMEDIA TOOLKIT II

1000's of clipart, fonts, samples, modules and midi files. Many, many tools and utilities to improve your multimedia presentations. All the items run straight from the CD. Octamed 5.04, the full version, is included (with Aura support), support files from many Octamed experts. Over 50MBs of Midicraft midi files, samples and modules (Midicraft are professional musicians working with the Amiga to create their music). 200 MBs of Imagine and Lightwave objects. If you are a Multimedia fan then you should not miss release volume 2.

£22.99

AGA EXPERIENCE vol. 1

NFA, famous for their Bodyshop series and Word disk magazine, present their first CD for the Amiga. This contains AGA PD from the last 3 years of which 90% will run straight from the CD! Contains the best WB3+ utilities and creative software, the greatest AGA games, high quality AGA slideshows, the most outstanding AGA demos, entertaining and informative disk magazines and the best of the rest. NFA have also compiled loads of exclusive wares for the CD: slideshows, Klondike cards and more. All this and contained in superb Magic Workbench icons makes the CD an absolute pleasure to use!

DUE OUT SEPTEMBER 1ST **£19.99**

ASSASSINS 2

In the follow up to Assassins Games vol.1, this CD contains 600 new games for all Amiga CD users. It contains a excellent interface which means that 99% of the games run straight from the CD, even on a CD32. If you want the best and the latest games then look no further!

£18.99

AMOS vol.2

This is an update to the first AMOS CD - the official library disks upto 638, general Amos PD over 200 disks. Also includes, ready to run, 1600 source files, 100 sprite banks, 260 Ctext banks, 800 samples, music banks, several Amos and Amos Pro extensions. An absolute essential CD for any Amos programmer.

£18.99

FRESH FONTS

VOLUME 1 £14.99 — VOLUME 2 £16.99

LIGHT ROM

Vol 1 contains 3D objects, many example images, image sequences, scene files, surface attributes, bump maps and textures. Light Rom volume 2 contains 100% Lightwave/Toaster material with over 300MB of data that didn't appear on vol.1.

VOLUME 1 £29.99 — VOLUME 2 £34.99

FRED FISH

Fred Fish has been serving the Amiga market since inception with his excellent disk compilations. The Fresh Fish (double CD) CDs continue the trend. The Gold Fish CDs are compilation of the best from the Fresh Fish CDs. The best on the market!

ALL CDs £24.99

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
Every time an Fred Fish CD is released (usually 4/6 months) we will send it to you for £21.99 - pay by credit or debit card. Card debited on despatch.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
Subscribe to Gold Fish 3 for £22.99 (Xmas 95 release?) - pay by credit or debit card. Card debited on despatch.

THE AMINET COLLECTION

Aminet 5	March 95		£11.99
Aminet 6	June 95		£11.99
Aminet 7	August 95		£13.99
Aminet 8	October 95	[Pre-Order]	£11.99
Aminet 9	December 95	[Pre-Order]	£11.99

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
Every time an Aminet CD is released (usually bi-monthly) we will send it to you for £11.99 - pay by credit or debit card. Card debited on despatch.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
Subscribe to Aminet SET vol 2 for £24.99 and we will send you it on release (Xmas 95?) - pay by credit or debit card. Card debited on despatch.

Aminet Set £23.99

ZOOM

Since the reviews in recent Amiga magazines we have taken all the minor criticisms and improved the interface to be the most easy to use CD interface on any CD. Coded by the author of the great Deadlock disk magazine - just point, read about the disk and click to extract. Superb and very easy to use. The contents have also been updated so you get all the latest PD until early September 1995 and loads more as listed opposite. Comes with an on-line help routine, multitasking search routine and hotkeys function. If you want the latest or greatest PD software then look here! The CD contains well over 1000 disks, over 600MB's of data or 1.2 GIG's of public domain.

Superb value CD-Rom at only £19.99 **NEW!**

Available to existing owners at £6.99 - call!

NEW - UPDATED VERSION

- **New Search Routine** — the multi-tasking search/find will seek file names or number
- **New 'Hot-Keys' Function** — just press 'S' for search or 'E' for extract, 'Help" for help!
- **New Separate List Buttons** — click a button for "Utilities" or "Demos" etc etc
- **Over 125 New Disks** — updated PD from June 1st to early September 1995
- **Restyled, Remastered** — new help and information guide, restyled artwork! Superb!

- **The latest PD from December '94 to September '95 : Utils, games, demos, slideshows, education, disk mags and more!** *- including most of this advert and loads of great PD software*
- NEW! **100 Klondike/Card Games Deluxe Cardsets**
- **Ground Zero's Themed Imagine Objects**
- NEW! **A great selection of Active Software Pro Packs**
- NEW! **All the Professional Sound Samples [50 Disks]**
- **Over 22MB+ of Magic WB icons, backdrops, drawers etc**

MEGA BUNDLE ONE

LIGHT WORKS — PRO FONTS/CLIP — BEAUTY CHAOS

This Mega Bundle contains Light Works - a superb raytracing/3D CD by Tobias Richter, The Professional Fonts and Clipart CD from PD Soft and the Beauty of Chaos which contains loads of fractals.

GET 3 CDs for £34.99

MEGA BUNDLE TWO

LSD VOL 2 — MEETING PEARLS 1 — PHASE 4

The 2nd Mega Bundle contains the LSD II CD - LSD were "famous" for Grapevine, Meeting Pearls 1 and the classic 17Bit Phase 4. Four Aminet-thrashers for one price!

GET 3 CDs for £24.99

MEGA BUNDLE 3

ASSASSINS 1 — GAMERS DELIGHT — POWER GAMES

Mega Bundle 3 contains the Assassins Games CD vol 1, Gamers Delight - full of commercial games - and to complete this games compendium Power Games has been included!

GET 3 CDs for £29.99

HOTTEST 4

This is a PD Soft collection of their PD library during 1994. Games, demos, utilities, animations, slideshows, diskmags, pictures, samples, music modules and much more. Limited stocks left so get this CD at this low price while you still can.

BARGAIN! £7.99

SPECCY SENSATIONS 2

A multi-platform CD with emulators for Amiga, Atari ST, Mac and PC. Loads of FAQs (Speccy related), technical FAQ, games lists, modifeied ROM, wallpaper (.BMP) pictures for Windows and (.IFF) for Amiga. Over 100 different Speccy computer screens and loads of tape covers. Not only does the CD contain all this exclusive data, it is stuffed with over 150MB's of Spectrum games for a myriad of computers. Mainly .SNA but also a selection of .Z80 files. From Attic Attac to Exolon or Jet Set Willy to Arcadia. Superb!

£18.99

3D ARENA

A superb 3D CD that contains many objects for Imagine, Lightwave and Real 3D for the Amiga and PC computers. One exclusive aspect for this CD is the 24Bit Club's objects/images for Lightwave. You'll only find them on here! Also attribute files, tutorials, utilities.

£19.99

LIGHT WORKS

A superb compilation brought to you by Tobias J. Richter, reknown for his amazing spaceships of famous science fiction films. The objects are complex, highly detailed and seem very real due to the superb surface texture techniques used. Ideal for both experts and begineers.

£29.99

PRO CLIPART 2

This is a multi-format CD that contains data in IFF and PCX format for Amiga and PC users. Includes categories such as animals, boys, cultural, floral and natural, girls, holiday, literal, mythological, scenery, transportation and work images. For Amiga/PC computers.

£17.99

GFX SENSATIONS

A collection of the best graphics tools, 24Bit images, animations and a huge collection for Imagine and Lightwave users: Anatomy, animals, aviation, bathroom, botany, buildings, clocks, computers, food, kitchens, lamps, ships, space, sports and much more!

£16.99

CD BOOT v1

This allows you to use any CD32 game on your A1200 or A4000. You can create a config file for every game. Comes with a complete English based manual and can run around 98% of CD32 games.

£26.99

SOUNDS TERRIFIC

This CD contains over 1.2 Gigs of sound and music data. It will form part of any professional musicians library or amateurs collection. 4,600 modules, 14,000 samples, 568 Sonix scores, 4500 instruments, 302 octamed modules and more!

£17.99

C64 SENSATIONS

CALL FOR DATE

This CD gives you almost 10000 C64 megademos and over 600MB of software. Mega demos, games, utilities for the Amiga and PC computers. Latest versions of emulators for both machines (the commercial version of A64 v3 for the Amiga). C64 experts have compiled a best of a CD.

£18.99

THE COLOUR LIBRARY

From a graphics company in Basildon, this compact disc contains all things colour. Essentially 1700 colour files with categories such as Animals, . Bikes, Boats, Buildings, Cars, Cartoons, Cats, Computers, Dinosaurs, Dogs, Fantasy, Fish, Flags, Flowers, Food, Helicopters, Houses, Inserts, Maps, Medical, Military, Misc, Painting, Photo, Places, Planes, Raytrace, Scenic, Sci-Fi, Sea, Space, Sport, Star Trek, Swimsuit, Trains, Wars and Women. 100% colour!

£8.99

AMIGA DTV

Many original textures start this CD-ROM. Backgrounds in JPEG format, over 200 colour anti-aliased fonts, 3D object data for Lightwave, Imagine and Scupit. It also contains many up-to-date utilities such as Main Actor, Ham Lab, Fracint, Anim players and more.

£13.99

UTILITIES 1-1500

The utilities 1-1500 CD contains the very best utilities and tools from PD Soft's library (mainly during 1994). Education, business, sound utilities, hobbies, emulators, programming, printer tools, virus killers and much more!

BARGAIN! £7.99

GIGA GRAPHICS

Giga Graphics is the ULTIMATE collection of graphics for the AGA Amiga. Over 10,000 images on this quad-pack CD. All images are in 24 Bit and HAM 8. Superb price for 4 CD's! Suitable for all AGA Amiga owners.

£34.99

SOUND WORKSHOP

Over 1 Gigabytes of data on this double CD. Includes MIDI files in various formats (MDI, MIM), hundreds of MB's of music to listen to or change/edit for your own applications. Over 5000 modules, 1000 VOC files, 1000 WAV files, 1000 samples.

£17.99

HOTTEST 5

Hottest 5 contains some of the very best games, demos,utilities, animations, slideshows and more from October to early February this year. This CD also comes with a 50-page black and white booklet and BBS support on the compact disc itself.

£15.99

TEN ON TEN PACK

An Almathera collection, reviewed in this months magazine consisting of ten CDs. They are: Team Yankee, Pandora's CD, World Vista Atlas, Illustrated Shakespeare, CDPD1, CDPD2, Demo 1, Comms and Networking, Fonts & Clipart and Photo Library CD

£35.99

INTERNET INFO

17,420 text documents straight from the Internet. FAQs on every subject imaginable, discussions from Usenet, Internet guides and more. An ideal way for the novice user to understand the Net!

£16.99

HOT AMIGA DEMOS

Do you want 1072 megabytes of the very hottest Amiga demos and megademos? This CD offers you hundreds of the finest demos. Spaceballs, Kefrens, TRSI, Complex, Scoopex, Silents, Sanity and Virtual Dreams are a selection of the biggest names here. 2000 floppy disks in DMS format with menu system to download LHA and DMS files. the CD also contains loads of the latest music modules from around the world. Plenty on here to keep any user or even a demo freak going for ages!

£18.99

ILLUSIONS IN 3D

Here is a CD with loads of 3D hidden pictures, the utilities you need to create your own images and also the objects needed to create the 3D "hidden" effect! Programs such as Stereogram to produce the image as well as hundreds of source files in a myriad of gfx formats.

£5.99

ADULT SENSATIONS

This CD is for adults only, it contains soft porn material no worse than the Sun newspaper. If this material offends you in any way please refrain from purchasing the CD. Proof of age (18+ only) needed when buying this CD. No proof = no CD.

We do not condone or supply hard core material

£17.99

MEETING PEARLS 2

Carrying on the excellent tradition this entire CD is run from HMTL "internet" style pages. More utilities, games, tools, music and Midi, FAQ's, PasTEX files and MB's of other data. This CD is similar to the Aminet series except it could be classed as more technical.

£8.99

WS ANIMATIONS

A double CD animation extravaganza! All the animations are ready to run from the CD, through an Amiga Guide file system. Some stunningly large animations, some over 5MB in size. Suitable for both the Amiga and PC.

£17.99

GROLLIERS £28.99

A superb, and the very best, encyclopedia for the CD32 or any AGA Amiga computer

17BIT DIMENSION 5

Following on from Phase 4 17Bit bring you their latest PD CD release. Their disks up until August 1995.

Get this for £16.99

LSD VOL III £17.99

The latest CD brought to you from LSD. Contains 95% of PD that has never appeared on any other CD!

WS FONTS

Another popular Wierd Science compact disc. This CD contains 2000+ Adobe and CG fonts, some PS fonts, 500+ bitmap, 190 coloured, 240 IFF, 139 Pgs, 24 Prodraw, 500 Truetype, 132 PCX, 300 GDOS and more!

£7.99

WS CLIPART

Must be nearly third in the most popular CD ever produced. Contains megabytes of B/W IFF bitmaps, colour IFF, proclips, EPS, Pagesetter, Pgs, IMG, Corel Draw and coloured brushes for Deluxe Paint. Bargain! This CD-Rom is suitable for Amiga, PC and MAC computers.

£7.99

Better than Amiga World

I am writing to tell you how grateful I am to receive your magazine, *Amiga Computing*, in fulfilment of the remainder of my subscription to Amiga World. These have been trying days for Amiga owners in the United States, with suppliers and publishers closing shop or switching to PC-related products.

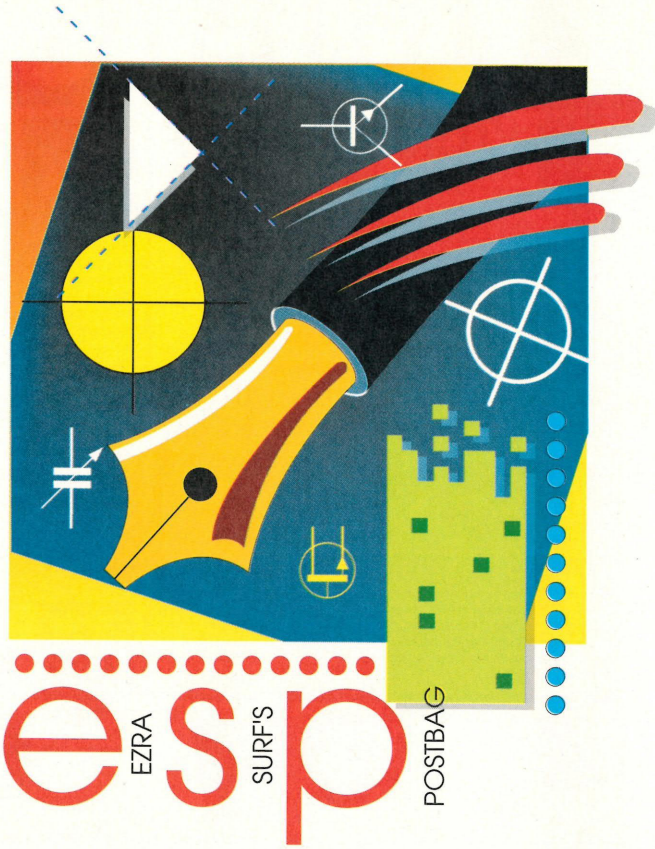
I am delighted by the depth of the articles in your magazine, as evidenced by its thickness in my mailbox. I am also quite pleased that you publish a US edition complete with US advertisers. It is good to see that there are still some loyal businesses supporting the Amiga community in the States.

I also look forward to upgrading to your Gold Subscription. I have tried your CoverDisks in the past, but newsstand prices of foreign periodicals are almost criminal here.

Please keep up the good work, it is not unappreciated here.

Robert J Bruce, Kansas USA

I'm pleased that you like our new edition of *Amiga Computing*. We are proud to offer what we consider to be the best advice on new products and old alike, with up to the minute news reporting and in-depth tutorials, and to paraphrase Al Jolson, you ain't read nuthin' yet!



Amiga Computing has recently become an international publication with a US edition going out to subscribers of the now-defunct Amiga World. It seems from the amount of mail the change has proved quite popular with our American cousins.

Singing our praises

I must write to congratulate and thank all of you for providing a valuable and informative publication. You do justice to the Amiga by representing the qualities of the machine, notably creativity and enthusiasm. Perhaps the best compliment I can give is that you really seem to enjoy doing what you are doing.

For instance, if I take a look at your August '95 edition, in the ImageFX v2.1 review, I immediately notice that you're not saying 'ImageFX does this...' Instead, you're saying 'I am happy to use ImageFX' or 'This seems odd to me...' or 'Maybe you really ought to look at this' etc. See the difference? Of course, because that's what makes your magazine different to the PC magazines I've flicked through. They are all 'Mhz' and 'Windows X.Y.'

You get this feeling running up your spine that that's all PCs are. But when you get your hands on an Amiga, it's like 'Hey, what shall we do now – music, art? It's friendly and it's shaped by you. One of my friends owns a PC and all the time he's saying: 'What's it doing now' or 'It's run out of memory' etc.

Please keep up the good work – you provide a kind of parenthood over the Amiga users.

Finally, I would be pleased to hear any comments you might have about the future of the Amiga and that shadowy force that is Escom.

C Cousins, Warrington

I think we do enjoy what we are doing, and it's for the reasons you give. Although we all get frustrated when the Amiga crashes, it's normally because we want to carry on having fun. As for Escom, read our piece by Gareth Lofthouse on the recent press conference that took place in Heathrow.

True fans

As an avid Amiga user for eight years it is still good to see such enthusiasm from other Amiga users. After the Commodore fiasco, it's obvious the only people still reading magazines and writing software are *true* Amiga fans.

If Escom do deliver the goods as promised, then I am sure the Amiga will be back in the Spotlight. It was nice to see the new logo Escom plan to use on *our* new machines. In my opinion (even with the energetic red square) the logo does not appear bold enough.

I have subscribed to your magazine in the past, although I have bought the magazine at the local newsagent recently for two reasons.:

1. Uncertainty about Commodore and the Amiga.
2. The free gifts you have offered recently have not interested me (when are you thousands of readers because we are not as rich as they think we are.

C R Redrado, Menorca

Òla señor Redrado! Check out this month's issue for a full review of the super Zip. I'm glad you liked the Personal Paint feature and the CD we gave away on May's issue. As for our cover price, we are always at the mercy of the cost of the paper we print on, but we have managed to hold our price down this far, and hope to continue to hold it down. Besides which, I really hope you don't just buy our magazine because it is cheap, but rather that it is the best.

Iberian inquiry

I've seen in the news pages of issues 88 and 89 of your magazine the incredible Zip Drive which acts like a 100Mb removable hard disk, and in the future there will be a version which will also incorporate a 3.5 inch high density drive.

My question is, where can I buy this wonderful drive? Is it only in the USA or is there a distributor here in Europe? I've seen a review of it in a US magazine which says it is the most wonderful thing ever made, but doesn't give an address where you can buy the drive. If I buy it in the US will it work in Europe?

You are the only European magazine I have seen that has said something about the Zip drive. Congratulations on informing the readers of new technologies, and will you be doing a full review of the Zip Drive?

Yours is the only Amiga magazine that has given a CD free that is full of interesting things, and I think it's the first to publish something about the new Personal Paint 6.3. Not only that, you also had an offer to buy it on a floppy or CD-ROM version.

I hope you don't raise your price as other magazines have done as I don't buy these any more – and it's not just me, they have lost

Does anyone care?

I am a new subscriber, formerly an Amiga World sub. I have just received my first issue of your magazine and am very impressed with the look and content. My question is one that I am sure is shared by many other readers both here and on your side of the ocean.

I am an A3000 owner, with 10Mb RAM, a 24-bit EGS spectrum board, etc. On reading your magazine I felt both lost and confused. Where do we A3000 folks fit in with the state of the Amiga? I originally bought my EGS to tap into the power of 24-bit graphics, only to discover that all new games for the A4000 won't even work with my machine. Most Amiga magazines now seem to feature CoverDisks, but even if I paid the extra price for these mags, I couldn't use the programs on the disks. Will I ever be able to run CD32 games or any of the AGA games?

And what about PC/Mac compatibility? If I purchase an Emplant, will my EGS be able to run the 256 colour games and programs available for the PC? And will a PowerPC board be available for the A3000? How much would it cost? Would it be more economical?

Like many others, I don't have the money to simply trash my computer and buy a new A4000T, or even an A1200. I have a large investment in my current equipment and would appreciate an honest answer or speculation on how bad off A3000 owners really are.

As you cover the new and exciting developments for the new Escom Amiga, please remember that there are a lot of us out here using A3000s who would like to know where we stand. We are confused and worried. We would appreciate any information you could give us, as well as clarification in your reviews and articles as to what will and won't run on our machines.

Thank you for your excellent magazine and I look forward to receiving it every month.

B Nicholson, Lake Buena Vista, USA

Well now, Mr Nicholson, don't fret. Quite a few of the staff of Amiga Computing are also A3000 owners and we don't look worried. Sure, you'll never be able to play AGA games, but is that really all you bought your graphics card for? Yes, you can buy an Emplant and run 256 colour Mac games on it, I do (get Maelstrom, by the way), but PC bridgeboards are a little thin on the ground at the moment.

If you are currently still using Workbench 2.x, which I assume you are because you say that you can't run 256 colour programs on your machine, then the best thing you can do is to immediately upgrade to Workbench 3.1 as this will let you run a 256 colour Workbench on your machine.

Finally, on a personal note, I think that the A3000 and A3000T were the best machines Commodore ever designed and they have a lot of advantages over A4000s, including a built-in SCSI controller and more importantly, a flicker fixer so you can use your Amiga with any old VGA monitor and not have to worry about not being able to sync down to 15kHz.

going to change them?)

Needless to say, I will probably subscribe soon enough.

M Clatworthy, Herstmonceux

It might be seen as a shame that it is only true Amiga fans who are left to produce software and hardware for us. We really need to have big companies seeing us as a valid platform for development in order to bring our machine back to prominence. All the same, we are getting some great stuff at the moment. Look at Photogenics, Twist, DOpus 5, etc.

As for the new Escom logo, you can always send us what you think would be more appropriate. If we get enough entries we might have a competition to see which one we think is best.

letters please

Keep those letters coming! If you can't be bothered to find a bit of paper and a stamp, why not e-mail us? Simply point your mailer to: ESP@acomp.demon.co.uk There's a £50 pound prize for the best letter printed as an incentive

Quality products

I read with interest about the CD-ROM that Colchester Zoo are employing and would be very interested in buying such a quality CD. Imagine how popular the Amiga range of computers will become with products such as these – parents will not need to take a second mortgage to provide quality edutainment for their children.

Now that CD drives are available to the mass market, courtesy of Squirrel, I hope more products of this nature will become available. This is what the Amiga needs to be taken seriously in the realm of multimedia. I also have a demo of Insight: Living Body by Optonica, and trust that this product is still due for release.

I also hope that once the A1200, 4000 and CD32s come back into production, these companies will make AGA CDs the standard. Without this commitment, the Amiga will always be held back. Non-AGA graphics do not carry the same impact and quality, and our titles will always pale in comparison to those on the PC. Commodore, and Escom (?), dropped the non-AGA machines for good reason – this is the 1990s.

This leads onto another point – with the vast majority of Amiga users who are unwilling to update their machines, we will never see software that can match the likes of Word or Word Perfect. Our computers will never be powerful enough. And if, for instance, Word did appear on the Amiga, how many people would buy it?

For that price you could buy yourself a second-hand A1200 with a copy of Wordworth 2. I only hope that the Amiga market will develop and that its users take note, so I can continue to use and support my favourite machine without settling for second best.

R Morse, Milton Keynes

There has been no decision made on whether the Colchester Zoo CD will become a commercial product yet. Ben Vost, the author of the piece, says he hopes it does because it is really informative and fun to use. The Squirrel SCSI controller has indeed been a phenomenal success, with HiSoft selling them as fast as they can produce them.

Put this together with the fact that the survey we conducted at the end of last year showed that most people were interested in buying a CD-ROM drive, and you have a convincing argument for more developers to produce quality titles like the Colchester Zoo one.

But it doesn't just have to be limited to edutainment titles either – it would be really nice to see some original CD-based games that don't rely on CD32 emulation, but that ran from Workbench or a CD32. Any offers?

Hard drive worries

I've just bought a second-hand A1200 with hard drive, PSU, mouse, manual, and disks complete, except for the Hard disk install disk version 3.0 and the Amiga Hard Drive Users guide.

All that was otherwise wrong was that the keymap was set to American, resulting in the wrong characters being produced by the English keyboard.

Could you please tell me where I might buy the above disk and manual.

D R Bartnell, London

I take it from your letter that the hard drive was fitted by a third party, rather than bought with one when it was new. Unfortunately, this was always the only way you could actually get hold of the official Commodore hard drive installation disk and manual, whether that situation has now changed with Amiga Technologies remains to be seen. You could try contacting them on 01628 770036.

Alternatively, should you have no luck with that avenue of enquiry, you can try any of the numerous PD libraries whose adverts grace our pages and ask them if they have a public domain or shareware equivalent of the Commodore installer. You will quite likely be offered RDPrep which is excellent, although it doesn't actually come with a manual.

public sector

Dave Cusick plunges an appendage into the PD pile and plucks out a plethora of premier products

Autumn marches ever onward, and before we know it Christmas will once again be upon us. It's over a year now since I took over the reigns of Public Sector and that time has seen many changes, not least of them being Escom's purchase of the Amiga. But some things never change. The quality of my alliterative standfirsts is, for example, as feeble as ever, and the quality of the PD and shareware *Amiga Computing* receives has remained consistently high...

Extreme Amos #1

Produced by: Carl Drinkwater
Available from: PD libraries

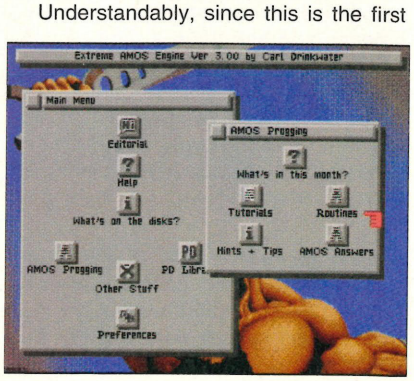
It's not often that the first issue of a diskmag makes a really good impression. This is particularly so in the case of those concerning Amos programming as the vast majority tend to be disappointing, insubstantial products.

Understandably, since this is the first issue, the content of some of the articles is a little thin. This is forgivable though, because at least the topics covered are more adventurous and interesting than in some disk magazines I have encountered. Tutorials, news, source code and so on make up the bulk of the magazine, and Extreme Amos also makes no secret of its close links with Mushroom PD, which claims to be the second largest Amos-only PD library in the country. Extreme Amos also distinguishes itself because it employs a stylish Workbench-like interface for article selection which makes a welcome change to the usual scrolling text-based lists.

As an added bonus, the second of the two disks on which Extreme Amos comes contains two excellent programs which demonstrate effectively what Amos is capable of in the hands of good authors. The first of these, Paul Burkey's Piles O' Tiles, is an enjoyable Shanghai-style game in which the objective is to remove pairs of 'Free' tiles – those which are not surrounded by tile stacks of equal heights. In the mould of numerous great puzzle games, it is simple but enormously engaging.

The second program is a magic eye picture creator called TERDS (standing for Totally Excellent Random Dot Stereograms). Written by magazine producer Carl Drinkwater, this is one of the better programs of its type, offering various options for twiddling with the RDS creation process.

Both TERDS and Piles O' Tiles are decent titles in their own right, but combined with the first issue of a promising new diskmag they become even more attractive. This is a package worth investigating.



Extreme Amos boasts a more innovative interface than most disk magazines

MUSIC of the month

Surfing On The Jazz Wave

Produced by: The Grooving Brothers
Available from: 17 Bit Software
Disk No. 3828 A/B

'What you gonna do when there ain't no swing?' asks the title screen of this curious production. Speaking personally I'll probably throw a party, but for those rather more favourably inclined towards it this disk could prove quite interesting.

Essentially, Surfing On A Jazz Wave is an immaculately presented collection of acid jazz tunes, all beautifully sampled and arranged. This sort of music doesn't do much for me, but if this is your thing then you'll love this disk – and even if it's not you will at least be stunned by the top class graphics and crisp sound reproduction.

As an added bonus, there's also an attempt to categorise a few dozen artists and their recordings, labelling them Dance, Funk, Acid Jazz, Salsa, Indefinable, or whatever. And at least the programmers realised that a well-crafted music module benefits from the non-inclusion of spinning texture-mapped balls and spiralling pictures of top supermodels.

Piles O' Tiles... one of two excellent Amos programs included on Extreme Amos

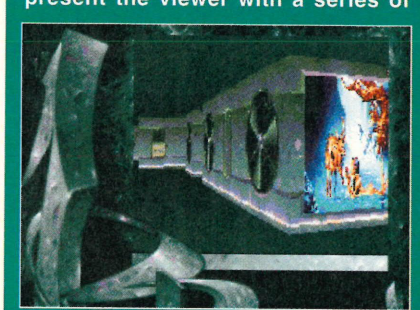
Artcore

Produced by: Scoopex
Available from: Pixel Digital PD
Disk No. AG249

Artcore is a slideshow with a difference. Whereas ordinary slideshows present the viewer with a series of pictures, one after another, with some awful tune wibbling away in the background, Artcore allows you to explore a texture-mapped 3D dungeon-style 'gallery'... with some awful tune wibbling away in the background.

It's surprising how much such a simple idea adds to the interest. Admittedly, as a consequence of including this kind of 'game engine' on the disk, only a dozen or so pictures can be included. But in this age where the prefix 'Virtual' is often happily slapped onto computer versions of real-life experiences and held up as examples of advancing technology, it is perhaps fitting that the common computer slideshow should be overhauled in this manner.

What about the pictures though?



Explore the Artcore gallery...

Scores of artists and recordings categorised for your listening pleasure

Come as you are

I want to hear from you if you have any program, whatever its purpose, which you consider worthy of review. Whether it will be freely distributable public domain, shareware or licenceware, if you feel it's of sufficient quality to merit coverage then stick it in a jiffy bag or padded envelope and send it in with all haste. I promise I'll at least look at your work – even if it's yet another Lottery program or Klondike cardset. It does make my job a lot easier though if disks are clearly labelled. Please also include a cover letter detailing the disk contents and price and giving some basic instructions. The magic address is:

Dave Cusick
PD submissions
Amiga Computing
Media House
Adlington Park
Macclesfield SK10 4NP

Super Skiddy Things 3 On Ice

Programmed by: Simon Hitchen
Available from: PD Libraries

This amusing little two-player racing game is just the thing for those lengthening Autumn evenings. The aim is to guide your rubber-suited Penguin around one of the four tracks before your opponent does. The thing is, since the tracks are constructed on ice, there tends to be

The title screen includes a basic ping-pong game... fifteen years ago this sort of thing on a Grandstand Video Game System would have been all the rage

Owing more than a little to Skidmarks, Super Skiddy Things 3 in all its graphical splendour

a fair bit of skidding around, making this a slightly trickier exercise than might be imagined... especially when the track slippiness setting is adjusted for minimum grip.

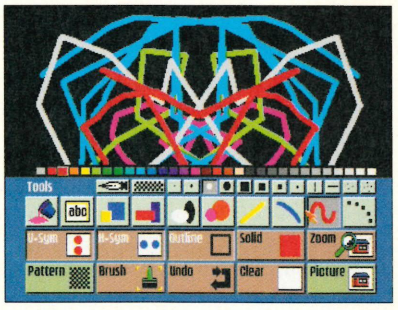
Top graphics and decent sound definitely help, but as ever it's the playability which makes or breaks a game. Super Skiddy Things 3 is not only very good fun, but it's the sort of game you and a friend could end up playing for quite some time.

Admittedly it does not demand a great deal of brainpower, but this is, if anything, in the game's favour. And in the unlikely event of one of you becoming bored with skidding around the tracks at high speed, the title screen also features a simple ping-pong game.

Belle's Paint

Programmed by: Philip Drake
Available from: SaddleTramps PD
Disk No. A115

A charming paint package written in Amos Professional and boasting a decent selection of tools. In addition to



All the tools you would expect are to be found in the Belle's Paint toolbox

the compulsory line and shape tools, it is possible to turn on lines of vertical and horizontal reflection symmetry, zoom in to work in detail on tricky areas, and fill in areas with preset patterns. At the click of a button the screen can also be flipped either horizontally or vertically.

While it's scarcely a rival for Personal Paint or Brilliance, or even DPaint, Belle's Paint is a competent piece of programming which costs a fraction of the price of commercial alternatives. It's also got some nice touches. For instance, with a little bit of effort it is apparently possible to use the program to perform some video titling functions such as fancy wipes.

However the only documents provided are some very brief ones added by those nice people at SaddleTramps, so a degree of experimentation could be necessary to familiarise yourself with this facility. I must confess, I couldn't entirely ➤

Well, admittedly if they were in a conventional slideshow they wouldn't grab the attention particularly. The fantasy images are all pretty typical: a couple of monstrous entities and the obligatory naked women in bizarre and highly unlikely poses. The standard of artwork throughout is high but imagination is a little lacking in some cases.

It's slightly ironic really that what is first and foremost a slideshow should impress largely because it clones the often-imitated PC blastfest Doom, albeit, of course, without the violence. But it's a nice idea, and one I'd like to see attempted again in the near future – and given the stunning lack of originality displayed in the demo scene sometimes, I think it's highly likely that I will.

...and then stare at the pictures for hours on end

Scavenger

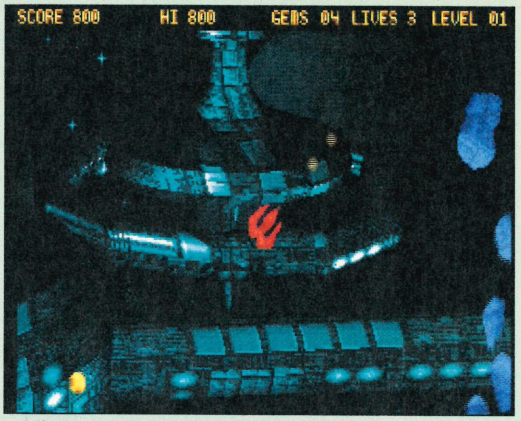
Programmed by: Ben Wright
Available from: Ben Wright

Old game ideas are constantly being resurrected in the world of PD and shareware, which is not necessarily a bad thing because many golden oldies were a good deal more entertaining than some recent commercial offerings. Scavenger is essentially Asteroids, with the slight difference that to finish a level in this version the player must collect a certain number of gems, rather than just blow away every asteroid on the screen.

However, I don't think I've ever played such a difficult Asteroids clone. Scavenger is so tough that even with the maximum possible nine lives I struggled to stay alive for more than a minute or two.

The strange thing is that despite being almost impossibly tricky due to what might kindly be described as quite sensitive controls, Scavenger is very addictive. There is also the added advantage that you're not likely to finish the game in a hurry.

Yes, the first time you play it you'll be lucky to last three seconds before colliding with a giant floating chunk of rock. But that won't stop you coming back for more.



Scavenger is a tough Asteroids clone that's even harder on accelerated Amigas

The graphics and sound are reasonable enough, although they are certainly nothing to get excited about. The gameplay is a different kettle of fish altogether though, because arcade action fans will want to have this game's babies.

➤ get to grips with the process in the limited time available, but I'm sure others will.

If you fancy trying your hand at producing some titling effects or are just on the look out for a no-frills paint package, Belle's Paint is definitely worth checking out.

RemDate 2

Programmed by: Andrew Whiteley
Available from: Roberta Smith DTP
Disk No. BU169

If you're one of those people who always forgets important dates such as birthdays and anniversaries, then RemDate is the program for you. It stores these along with special days, diary appointments, addresses and telephone numbers, making this one of the most comprehensive personal organiser programs in the public domain. It can print out in a variety of ways, including paper of sizes suitable for use in pocket personal organisers.

On demand, RemDate will summarise events in the next few days and inform you how many days are left before a certain day such as a birthday, allowing you to plan accordingly. When entering these dates in the first place, it is possible to specify how much warning you want, so you'll have no excuse for being late with that anniversary card.

RemDate is also capable of displaying key events that happened 'On this day in history', or in a specified year, and producing a quote for the day.

There's a small program included called RemDateWB which is designed to sit in your Workbench Startup drawer. Then, when you turn on your machine it will remind you of any events coming up. RemDateWB can also be configured so that it only does this once a day, rather than every time you reboot, which was a thoughtful inclusion by the author.

The interface is attractive and the program is a joy to use. In short, if your life is in need of some organisation then RemDate will be the answer to your prayers. AC

Find the answer within

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Fax: 01924 200943
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OnLine PD,
1 The Cloisters, Halsall Lane, Formby, Liverpool L37 3PX
Tel: 01704 834335
Cost: 75p per disk plus 75p P&P

Pixel Digital PD
Stanley Dock Market, Regent Road, Liverpool S4
Tel: 0151-259 4017
E-mail: Paul@Pixel.u-net.com
Cost: £1 per disk plus 50p P&P

Michael Pratt
10 Rivers Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5RJ
Cost: £1

Ali Prior,
10 Lovell Park Heights, Leeds LS7 1DP
Cost: Demo version free, send disk and SAE

SaddleTramps PD
1 Lower Mill Close, Goldthorpe, Rotherham S63 9BY
Tel: 01709 888127
Cost: 95p per disk

Roberta Smith DTP
190 Falloden Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6JE
Tel: 0181-455 1626
Cost: 95p per disk plus 50p P&P

Ben Wright
65 South Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 9DY
Cost: £2, although fans should also pay registration fee later

Strange currencies

For practically a year now since the launch of the National Lottery last November, there has never been a week go by without at least one Lottery program arriving in the Public Sector mailbag. It must be said that the majority are much of a muchness, and even in the more outstanding cases it is very hard to tell whether these programs will improve your chances of winning. There have been plenty of random number selectors and even a lottery simulator. One gentleman this month sent in the interesting Talk A Lottery, designed to literally tell you some random numbers, which was at least something slightly different – but unfortunately it stubbornly refused to run for me, making it rather hard to try out.

Still, if you fancy getting hold of a proper predictor, whether out of curiosity or because the Lottery has become so important to you that you've nothing better to do of an evening than consider endless multi-ticket permutations, then here's the Public Sector guide to the three to beat...

Pro Lottery 1.1

(Originally reviewed in AC89)
Available from: Ali Prior

The program I think I'd opt for if I ever bothered doing the Lottery. This was the first predictor *Amiga Computing* received which suggests multi-ticket permutations, making it very useful to members of Lottery syndicates.

Lottery Winner AGA

(Originally reviewed in AC84)
Available from: OnLine PD (Disk No. OX101)

This is a demonstration version, with the full version costing £2.50 from the author. Prediction methods based on recognising trends in winning numbers.

MP Lottery 4.1

(Originally reviewed in AC85)
Available from: Michael Pratt

Attractively presented program, with the added advantage of costing only a quid, exactly the same price as a Lottery ticket.

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If you have found a cheaper price elsewhere in the magazine, call us and we will do our best to beat it.

AMIGA 1200 "Magic"

The awesome new AMIGA 1200 "Amiga Magic" pack is here.
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Sit back, relax, put your feet up, have a long cool drink. Another bunch of Amiga owners receive enlightenment

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CD Scala turmoil

I have an A1200 with 85Mb hard drive, and a GVP A1230 II with 4Mb of RAM. I have recently purchased an Archos CD-ROM drive, and the problem is after I install the CD software. Whenever I try to run any Scala script, big or small, the screen goes blank and a requester comes up stating that the machine is out of memory.

Currently, the only way I can use the CD-ROM is by booting up the computer with the supplied software, which does not solve the problem. Do I need more RAM for my system, or am I only going to be able to use Scala and the CD separately?

Kurt Dallas, Middlesex

The Archos CD handler software is not that brilliant, and it does seem to be the cause of your problems. It may be worth getting hold of the latest version of the handler software, which is up to about version 11, and that may solve your problems.

Another way around your problem is there should be a CD0 DOS Driver in your 'DEVS:DosDrivers' drawer. If you move this out of the DOS Drivers drawer, the CD handler software won't be started each time you boot up your machine. This will let you use Scala in peace, and then whenever you wish to use the CD, simply double-click the CD0 icon and the CD software will be started.

A600 expansion

I have a 2Mb Amiga600 and am planning to add an IDE hard drive and possibly a CD-ROM via the PCMCIA slot. I'm getting into DTP and want to add some extra memory, but the only way seems to be to use either a 2 or 4Mb PCMCIA memory card, which have seemingly disappeared from the current Amiga adverts. Is there any other way of expanding the A600's memory further?

M Toms, Isle of Wight

The A600 really is the machine that Commodore forgot, and it is quite difficult finding any adverts selling products for it. The PCMCIA cards that used to be advertised were fairly expensive, and they slowed the A1200 down so they never really took off. The other downer is that it would tie up your PCMCIA slot. If you plump for a PCMCIA card, you could try looking in a PC (spit spit) magazine, if none of the Amiga dealers can help.

I do remember a A600 card that could take either 2 or 4Mb of memory, so it was possible to expand your A600 up to 9Mb in conjunction with a PCMCIA (I hate that acronym) card. The problem you are going to have is that DTP really requires a fast processor. You do not say what DTP software you have, but on our February '94 issue we gave away 'The Publisher' which is an excellent DTP package and its main advantage is that it is extremely fast.

If you really do fancy getting serious about DTP, you might want to consider getting a second-hand A1200 fitted with a hard drive and an accelerator.

Game gremlins

I bought an A500 back in 1990 to which I have added a ½ Mb memory expansion card, a 40Mb hard drive with 4Mb of RAM. The problem I am having is that I have installed Civilization and Lemmings 2 onto my hard drive, but when I try to run them they both crash the machine, complaining about not enough memory. Am I doing something wrong or do I need some more hardware? Is there a solution that will not cost an arm and a leg?

Steve Mellows, Cambridge

It sounds to me like you do not have enough chip memory. This is the memory used to store the graphics and sounds used by the games. The A500 you have probably only has a ½ Mb of chip memory, and as you are running the games off the hard drive the amount of available chip memory is reduced, so it cannot get the required memory to run.

One option is that you could fit a mega chip expansion board which would give you 2Mb of chip memory – very handy for using paint packages, but it does cost a £150. The other alternative is if you have a revision 6 mother board. You can perform a little surgery on it which will give you 1Mb of chip memory. However, we take no responsibility for any damage caused to your machine as a result of performing this operation, and suggest that you get an authorised engineer to do the modification for you.

After you have checked that you have a revision 6 mother board – it says on the far right – you should locate three small square solder pads labelled JP2, just left of the central square chip. You need to cut the connection between the bottom two squares – a craft knife is best – and you do not have to cut very deeply at all as the solder join is on the surface and is quite thin. You then have to

➤

TUDE trouble

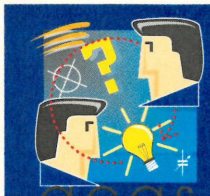
I cannot get TUDE to work. What's going on?

Lots of People, everywhere

Whoops, looks like he hit the tree. Did you extract TUDE off our September CoverDisk? If you double-clicked the GUI icon then tried to use your selected options, all that happened is that you got an error message.

We made a bit of a boob there, but do not worry as the problem is quite easy to correct. The TUDE GUI program is separate from the actual TUDE program, which can only be used from the shell. When you tell the GUI program to run TUDE, it cannot find it as it only looks at the set path, which does not include the directory TUDE is in.

What you have to do is first boot up the first disk and extract the TUDE program into ram:. Next, open up the RAM disk and from the Workbench menu select the 'show all files' option. You should now see a C drawer and the TUDE drawer. Open up the TUDE drawer and find the TUDE program. Now you have to drag TUDE into the Ram:C drawer. If you now run the GUI program it will be able to find the actual TUDE program and every thing should work fine.



Do you have a problem? Do you sometimes find yourself poised over your Amiga with axe in hand, spouting profanity at the stubborn refusal of your software or hardware to behave properly?

Well, calm down and swap the axe for pen and paper, jot down your problems, along with a description of your Amiga setup, and send it off to Amiga Computing Advice Service, IDG Media, Media House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. Alternatively, e-mail us at ACAS@acomp.demon.co.uk

Any questions?

solder a connection between the top and the middle solder pads.

Finally, you need to locate another three small solder pads labelled JP7a, found next to the RAM expansion. The connection between the bottom two needs to be cut. Once done, the bomb is defused – whoops getting a bit carried away there. If you now boot up your computer you will have a full Megabyte of graphics memory.

AmigaGuide guide

When I am writing AmigaGuide documents, how do I get my buttons to be in Bold, italics etc. I can do it with text, but not the buttons. Also, how do you get AmigaGuide to launch external applications such as pictures, animations from within a document?

Ben Chapman, Bramhall

Blimey, it could take pages to go into the design and usage of AmigaGuides. Hang on – Paul I've just had an idea for a feature.

As far as I can tell, there is no way of getting the button in an AmigaGuide to be rendered in any other style. It ignores the built-in style commands, and also ignores any ANSI escape codes you might try.

If you are using AmigaGuide under OS3.0 or higher, it is possible to do a link to an external data file. If the data type is supported, the AmigaGuide will be able to display or play the file. The link takes the form of a normal NODE link, but the second part is the path name of the data file. For example:

```
@{'It's a Picture' link 'Work:Guide/MyPicture'}
```

Using this technique, it is also possible to do links to other guides, which are saved as separate files. The only problem with using the guide to display or play picture and sound files is that it will be on a blank window, which does not look that nice.

It is possible to execute system commands from button presses. The format is the same as above, but you use the word 'system' instead of 'link', and you have to add a '/main' to the end of the file name – don't ask me why you just have to:

```
@{'Picture' system 'run MultiView
Work:Picture/MyPicture/main'}
```

This will allow you to display a picture using another AmigaGuide or MultiView on the same screen, but in a separate window – which I think looks better. It also allows the user to get rid of the picture whenever they like.

CD conundrums

I recently purchased an Octagon 2008 controller and a Apple CD300e and am having a great deal of trouble trying to configure the system and get it to work.

I was told to extract the CD0 driver from the storage disk, but this does not exist – the only drivers I have are Aux, Pipe, PC0 and PC1. When I use the Octagon HD inst tools, the window comes up with the following:

PIC	TID	LUN
0 0	0	Matshita CDRom CR8004 1.1f Unsupported
- -	-	
6		All Repeated

I hope you can help me out as I am getting extremely frustrated.

Alex Currie, Ayrshire

The problem you are having is that you do not have the correct DOS Driver. As someone has kindly pointed out, you will need to copy the CD0 DOS driver into your DEVS:DosDriver drawer. Unfortunately, only AmigaDOS 3.1 came with CD-ROM support, so only 3.1 owners will have a CDRom.handler and accompanying CD0 DOS driver in their L: and DEVS:DosDrivers drawers.

However, all is not lost. What you need to get hold of is the AmiCDRom software. This will install the correct driver and handler software to allow you to use your CD player. This is available on Fred Fish disks, so any decent PD house should be able to supply you with the right disk.

The information displayed by the Install tools shows that the CD is connected to the SCSI chain. You may still have problems using the CD as it stands because the CD data is repeated for every SCSI device entry. This can be cured by fitting a SCSI terminator, which basically indicates that there are no more devices attached to the SCSI chain.

Printer predicament

I am writing to you for help with an AmigaDOS problem that I have. On my old A600HD with WB2.05, I used to be able to dump ASCII text or directory listings to the printer from the CLI, with the following command line: type s:test TO PRT: or list s: TO PRT:.

Now that I have upgraded my machine to an A1200HD, the above command line will crash my machine, and sometimes a prompt will appear which will ask for a volume with no name.

The hard drive I have is a 120Meg Seagate – it was in my A600 but I re-installed it in the A1200. The boot partition did originally have WB2.05 on it. All other aspects of printing are fine, and I currently get around the problem by making a temporary file in RAM and using ppmore to print out the file, which works fine. Most of my executable library and device files are imploded with imploder, and I use early Explode patch to allow programs to use them.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on an excellent magazine, and also your 'Utility Heaven' CoverDisk was BRILL. It's great to see lots of useful PD programs on your Cover Disk, so keep up the good work!!!

Adrian Richings, Gwynedd

We are always susceptible to grotesque amounts of praise – glad you like the magazine so much.

As for your problem, I would firstly check that you have fully installed all the new Workbench 3.0 files over the old 2.05 files. Having said that though, using an older version of the parallel or printer device should not make the computer crash.

I am going to have to point my finger at early Explode. As it is quite an old patch, there is a chance that the new OS is doing something it cannot handle. I would unImplode all your device and libraries files because the amount of room you gain is not that great, and all you are doing is slowing the computer down because each time it opens a library or device file it is having to decompress it, increasing the amount of time it takes to run programs.

If you really want to compress your system files you might want to consider the XPK distribution, which is usable for any data files, or the Disk Expander product.

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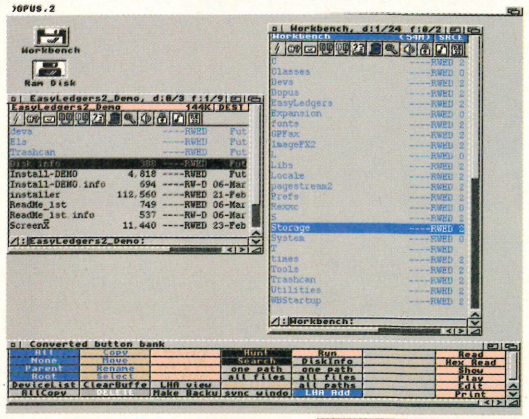

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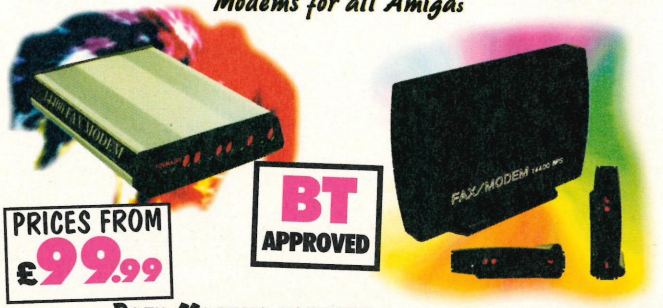

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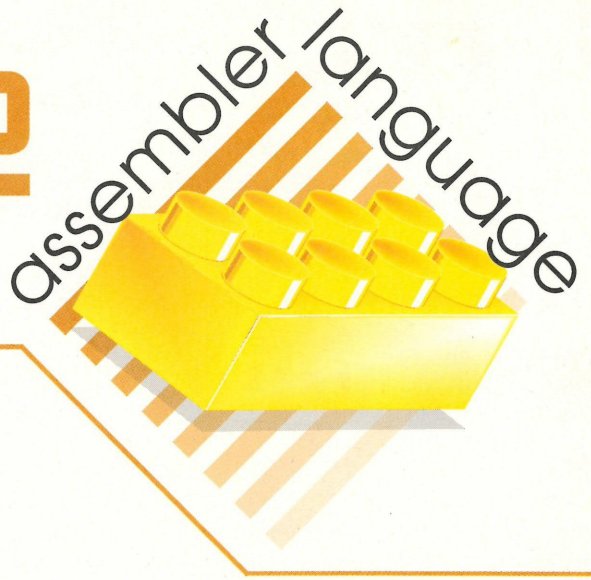
Text message display

Part 15



Paul Overaa outlines an easy way to get text messages written to a Shell window

Assembly language programmers frequently need to be able to write text messages back to a Shell window. The good news at this point is that it is very easy to do and by making use of a few well chosen macros, you can effectively get the assembler to write most of the code for you. This month's example is based on three macros: WRITEDOS, which sets up a DOS library Write() function call, and CALLSYS and LINKLIB which (as regular readers will already know) are used to generate the library calling code.

A description of the Write() function has been provided in the accompanying boxout and you see that for delivering text messages, this function needs to know the length of the text string. One way to work out the number of characters is to actually count them, but this approach is both tedious and error prone. A better way is to get the assembler to do the counting for you by placing an additional label at the end of the text, and then using the EQUate directive to set it to a value based on the current assembler location counter value minus the start of the original string like this:

```
message          dc.b 'Just some example
text!'
message_SIZEOF   EQU *-message
```

The result is that the assembler sets the second label to the size of the preceding text string. Now, if we also adopt a convention whereby the sizes of all strings are represented by adding _SIZEOF to the original label, it's possible to create a macro that automatically forms the size label from the string name it is given. The WRITEDOS macro, shown in listing 1, does exactly this and it therefore allows a programmer to create text display code simply by writing statements like:

```
        WRITEDOS        message,_stdout
```

Notice at this point that we need to identify the standard output handle for the Shell. There is an easy-to-use DOS function called Output() which allows us to obtain this. The function needs no parameters and since the result comes back in register d0, the fragment for identifying the handles looks like this:

```
        CALLSYS         Output,_DOSBase
        move.l          d0,_stdout
```

UNDERNEATH THE SURFACE

Those of you who are new to assembler coding may find it useful to know what the assembler does as it encounters the WRITEDOS macro call. Firstly, the macro gets expanded to produce these instructions:

```
movem.l     d1-d3,-(sp)         preserve regis
                                ters d1-d3
move.l      _stdout,d1          DOS output file
                                handle
move.l      #message,d2         start of mes
                                sage
move.l      #message_SIZEOF,d3  size of message
CALLSYS     Write,_DOSBase      DOS call to
                                write message
movem.l     (sp)+,d1-d3         restore regis
                                ters d1-d3
```

Function Name:	Write()	
Description:	Write data to a file	
Call Format:	length_written = Write(file, buffer_p, data_length)	
Registers:	D0	D1 D2 D3
Arguments:	file	- file handle
	buffer_p	- pointer to buffer holding the data
	data_length	- length of the data
Return Value:	length_written - number of bytes actually written	
Notes:	A length_written value of -1 will indicate an error	

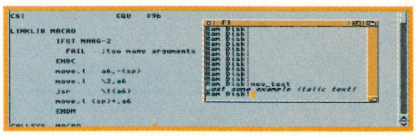
Description of the Write function

```
WRITEDOS MACRO
movem.l     d1-d3,-(sp)         preserve registers d1-d3
move.l      \2,d1               DOS output file handle
move.l      #\1,d2              start of message
move.l      #\1_SIZEOF,d3       size of message
CALLSYS     Write,_DOSBase      DOS call to write message
movem.l     (sp)+,d1-d3         restore registers d1-d3
```

Listing 1: The macro for writing text strings

The CALLSYS macro also gets expanded, causing the _LVO prefix to be added to the 'Write' label and generating a further reference to the system include file LINKLIB macro which is then also expanded. The result is that the assembler ends up producing code which looks like this:

```
movem.l     d1-d3,-(sp)         preserve registers
                                d1-d3
move.l      _stdout,d1          DOS output file
                                handle
move.l      #message,d2         start of message
move.l      #message_SIZEOF,d3  size of message
move.l      a6, -(sp)           preserve contents
                                of a6
move.l      _DOSBase, a6        base address of
                                library
jsr         _LVOWrite(a6)       indirect subroutine
                                call
move.l      (sp)+,a6            restore a6
movem.l     (sp)+,d1-d3         restore registers
                                d1-d3
```



This month's example was actually created using Hisoft's Devpac but the code can be assembled using any assembler

The CoverDisk code

All we need now is a runable example and you'll find this on the CoverDisk. Of course, WRITEDOS can be used for control character output as well as text string output so, to make the example a little more interesting, I've included a couple of console control sequences which tell the Shell window to turn italic text display on and off. The data for these calls are set up in just the same way as already explained, with italic control being provided by these two definitions:

```
italic_ondc.b CSI,$33,$6d
italic_on_SIZEOF    EQU *-italic_on
italic_off          dc.b CSI,$32,$33,$6d
italic_off_SIZEOF   EQU *-italic_off
```

You'll therefore find the real text message generation sandwiched between the calls that control the italics setting like this:

```
WRITEDOS italic_on,_stdout      turn on italics
WRITEDOS message,_stdout        get DOS to write message
WRITEDOS italic_off,_stdout     turn off italics
```

And that's basically all there is to it as far as basic Shell window text display is concerned. So that the example code can be assembled without the official Amiga system files, I've included all necessary LVO (library vector offset) values for the function calls and the WRITEDOS, CALLSYS and LINKLIB macros in the source itself. The runable form of the program does, of course, need to be run from a Shell window because it will be to that window that the output text will be sent!

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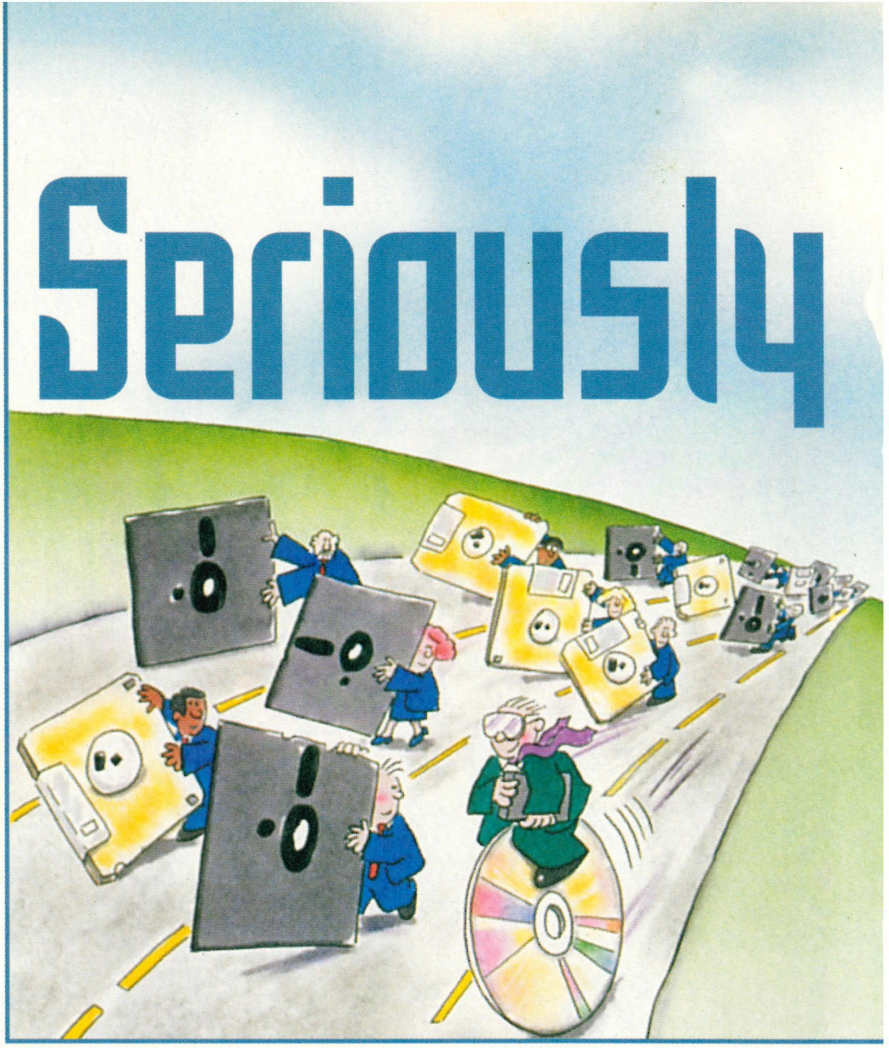
Seriously

The Amiga has been around for quite a while now and when it was released it only had two pieces of software other than Workbench, one of which was a paint package called Prism, the other a piece of music software that Debbie Harry sang along to at the launch of the Amiga.

The situation has changed somewhat over the last ten years, with a particular concentration in the arenas the Amiga started with, namely graphics and music. And of course, there's a lot of software out there that might not be familiar to you, especially if you are a relatively new Amiga owner. So let's plunge straight into our categories and have a look at what's available.



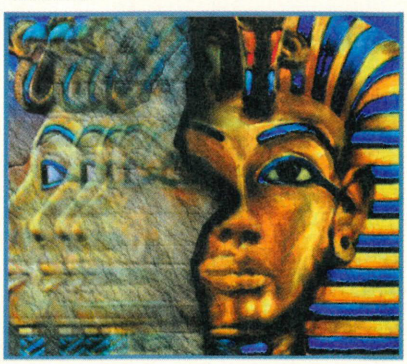
Graphical glory

Let's start with the category that launched the Amiga – graphics. With a wide selection of paint packages at our disposal, we have always been well catered for. We've got the Paints (D, P and TV) and Brilliance, and we've got the know-how to use them. For a long time, the only choice that had to be made was whether you were going to buy DPaint or not do any graphics, but DPaint's thunder has been somewhat stolen over the past three or so years by two new contenders; Brilliance and Personal Paint.

Personal Paint's start was somewhat shaky. It looked like a sub-standard DPaint clone and behaved like one in some respects too. It still only offers painting in 256 colours on screen (no HAM or HAM8), but it does now have an animation system and many more features besides.

Some of the more interesting ones include a virtual memory system for manipulating bitmaps larger than your memory would normally be able to hold, and the ability to produce both Random Dot Stereograms and Single Image Stereograms relatively painlessly (until you have to look at them, of course). It also has both whole-image and brush-based image processing functions, so you can paint over an area to make it embossed, for instance, which, while somewhat slow, adds a whole new set of tools for creativity.

Personal Paint is full of innovations and, unlike DPaint and Brilliance, is still in development, so it can only get better. It is also the only native paint package that properly supports graphics cards. Brilliance is also an innovative package geared towards the artist rather than the computer fiend, it has superb tools for animation and an interesting, if somewhat unfamiliar – to afficionados of the DPaint/PPaint layout – interface.



DPaint

Brilliance actually consists of two paint packages, one for normal register paint, and a version for use under HAM which saves out 24-bit files. DPaint is still going great guns, especially since it now comes with a macro recorder and an enhanced move requester, but it still seems pretty slow and it's not going to get any faster.

There is one other dedicated paint package available for the Amiga, but you need to have a pretty stonking machine to take advantage of it. The title in question is TVPaint which now supports layering effects like Photoshop (although it is limited to only three layers) and improved speed and fluidity in its painting tools. However, as I already said, you are going to need a fat wallet to get it. Not only does it cost somewhere in the region of £400 for the software, you really need at least 14Mb RAM and a fast graphics card to use it. Having said that, it is the only one of the packages I have mentioned that supports pressure-sensitive graphics tablets properly.

- **Deluxe Paint V** £59.95 Emerald Creative Technology 0181-715 8866
- **Personal Paint v6.3** £39.95 Amiga Computing 01625 878888
- **TV Paint 3** £329.95 Activa UK 0181-402 5770
- **Brilliance 2** £45.95 Emerald Creative Technology 0181-715 8866

Video niceys

Video. The last bastion of Amiga superiority. Only the Amiga makes direct genlocking or recording to video possible without expensive graphics cards. And as such, we have some stonking video titling packages such as Scala, Broadcast Titler II, Montage 24 and Big Alternative Scroller 2 to rely on for all our CG needs.

Scala is the big daddy of them all. More than a video titler really, Scala can be put to use as a Point Of Information display tool or interactive multimedia presenter. Scala comes in a variety of guises, from the simplicity and small scale of HT100, all the way up to IC400, otherwise known as InfoChannel.

InfoChannel is designed as a distributed information system and is used to control video walls and hotel TV systems. In the middle somewhere is Scala MM400 – we reviewed it earlier this year – the king of Amiga multimedia packages. With the ability to scale fonts on the fly, have wipe effects both onto and off the screen, and load almost any type of picture file format suitable for video work, Scala has a lot hidden under its bonnet.

- **Scala MM400** £249.95 Emerald Creative 0181-715 8866
- **Montage 24** £259.95 Emerald Creative 0181-715 8866
- **Big Alternative Scroller 2** £49.95 Emerald Creative 0181-715 8866

super software

Following on from last month's super Amiga feature, Ben Vost takes a look at some of the best software available for your machine

Key

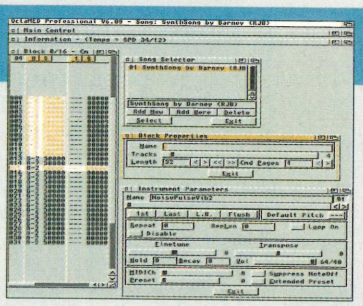
- **Red** = Out of development
- **Green** = Still in development
- **Blue** = Unsure of development status

Musical moments

The other launch platform for the Amiga, music has long been a passion for Amiga owners with composers like Danny Elfman (Beetlejuice, Nightmare before Christmas and Batman) using Bars and Pipes Pro to help them with their compositions. There are two forms of music that can be made using the Amiga, one being MIDI sequenced music using packages like Bars and Pipes or MusicX, the other being 'internal' music or chip tunes using tracker programs like Powertracker or OctaMed.

There are a vast number of mods, as the tunes are called, available from public domain sources like the Aminet, but I digress. The toppest of top notch MIDI sequencers for the Amiga has to be Bars and Pipes Professional. Indeed, Andy Bishop, one of Premier Vision's directors and no mean muso himself, has said on numerous occasions that he can do things with Bars and Pipes that still can't be done on any other platform, so it must be true.

Other contenders in the MIDI music field include the relatively recently updated MusicX and even OctaMed has now integrated MIDI sequencing into



OctaMed

its tracker programming. On the tracker front, you can only **buy** one product and that is OctaMed, but there are umpteen Pro, Power, Noise, Blahdiblah trackers out there in the public domain.

- **Bars & Pipes Professional** £215 White Knight Technology 01920 822321
- **MusicX** £49.95 Emerald Creative Technology 0181-715 8866
- **Octamed 6** £40 RBF Software 01703 785680

let's get serious

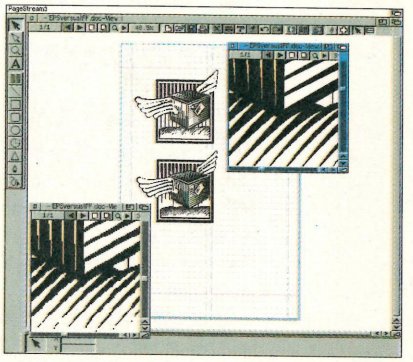
'Serious' software has always been slightly thin on the ground for Amigas, unlike certain other machines, but we do have a couple of splendid word processors in Final Writer and Wordworth. Final Writer should just be hitting a new version as you read this, with even more features including a sensible way to apply bold and italic styles to text and a 'tab' feature that needs to be seen to be understood.

In the battle for speed at word processing, Final Writer wins hands down. It also comes with more fonts and clip art than Wordworth and supports ARexx. However, a lot of people don't like Final Writer's non-standard interface and feel more at home with Wordworth's more Amiga-like approach. Both these packages really need a hard drive and a machine with at least a 68020 and 4Mb RAM to run well, but for those with a humbler specification, there is always Final Copy or Wordworth SE. Wordworth SE is merely a cut-down version of the full package, whereas Final Copy is actually a different program geared towards lower end machines. Of course, if you want total control over your page layout, you will almost certainly want to go for PageStream 3. This is a fully-blown, almost-professional DTP package. I say almost professional because there are certain features that remain to be implemented including, perhaps most importantly, the ability to produce colour separated documents. Without this ability you will be limited to either working in greyscale or printing on your own colour printer.

You could, alternatively, go for a copy of ProPage, now resurrected by LH Publishing who are able to offer it for £49.95. However, this doesn't alter the fact that the product is no longer in development.

On the database front there hasn't really been anything to match Superbase's domination of the market, but with new databases from HiSoft (Twist2), Softwood (Final Data), and Digita (DataStore), perhaps there will be a new brand leader. However, none of the databases I have mentioned seem to have the depth presented by Superbase Professional.

When it comes to spreadsheets, the Amiga is even less well served, with only TurboCalc really in the running, although there is a new title on the horizon with Softwood's Final Calc.



PageStream

- **Final Writer v4** £74.95 Gordon Harwoods 01773 836781
- **Final Copy** £49.95 Gordon Harwoods 01773 836781
- **Wordworth** £79.95 Emerald Creative Technology 0181-715 8866
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- **Professional Page v4.1** £49.95 LH Publishing 01908 370230
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- **Final Data 2** £39.95 Gordon Harwoods 01773 836781
- **DataStore** £45.95 Emerald Creative Technology 0181-715 8866
- **Superbase 4** Professional £129.95 HiSoft 01525 718181
- **TurboCalc** £49.95 Emerald Creative Technology 0181-715 8866

Processor power

ADPro introduced Amiga owners to the real power of image processing. There were other packages available, but none had the stable, flexible interface that ADPro presented to the world. Times have moved on since then – indeed ADPro is no longer being updated and the company formerly known as ASDG (now Elastic Reality) is working on products for pretty much any platform other than the Amiga. But it's not a great loss as the last version of ADPro was distinctly disappointing and we have some superb new packages to play with.

First up is ImageF/X which has gone from strength to strength since its inception as GVP's in-house image processor. ImageF/X now supports 24-bit preview screens if you are lucky enough to be running the CybergraphX software, and its range of features and file formats that are supported has grown apace. However, the real star of this year has to be Almathera's superb Photogenics package. I could have put this in with the graphics section, but I feel Photogenics is not quite strong enough to sit in with the all-purpose graphics packages; where it scores is as a 24-bit paint and process tool, particularly suited to retouching scans and generating stunning backdrops and composite pictures. With interactive picture compositing and brush-based image processing effects, the sort of pictures you can create is only limited by your febrile imagination.

Photogenics

- **ADPro v2.5** £139 Emerald Creative Technology 0181-715 8866
- **ImageF/X v2.1** £249.99 (but look for special offers) from Wizard Developments 01322 272908
- **Photogenics v1.2** £59.95 from Almathera 0181-687 0040

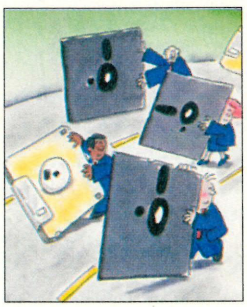
3D 4U

The Amiga was producing high-quality ray traced images before the majority of PC owners even knew what ray tracing was. With a long pedigree, LightWave is probably the best-known 3D package for the Amiga now, but you shouldn't forget the brilliant contribution made by Imagine to the Amiga's standing in the 3D arena.

There are also unknown quantities in the form of Maxon Cinema 4D and Reflections, two German ray tracers of repute, both of which will be released over here. Lightwave is the one to go for for ease of use and add-on utilities. You can get utilities that generate explosions, gravity, hair, flocking behaviour, target tracking, and so on and so on.

There is another 3D package that doesn't seem to get as much press as the other two, namely Real 3D. The older versions were quite simple to use, but with the introduction of Real 3D v2, Real became a lot more complex. Real3D is now ideally suited to people who wish to simulate physical experiments as you can assign gravity effects, collision detection, elasticity and other physical properties to the objects in your scenes.

With Real 3D it is even possible to go bowling and see the results, albeit a lot more slowly than you would if you just went down to your local bowling alley. As with any processor-intensive software package, you will find yourself growing old if you are waiting for your pictures to render on a 68000 machine, so make sure you have plenty of RAM and processor power before you go and lash out on one of these packages.



- **LightWave 4** £tbc from Cybersystems 01843 292150
- **Imagine 3.x** £99.95 from Emerald Creative 0181-715 8866
- **Real 3D v3** £319.95 from Activa UK 0181-402 5770
- **Maxon Cinema 4D** £199.95 from HiSoft 01525 718181

Miscellany

There are always some things that cannot be pigeonholed but shouldn't be forgotten because that is the case. It's the same story with Amiga software. There are certain titles, like Distant Suns, that fit uneasily into categories like educational. It's as close a fit as we are likely to get, but why categorise them at all? So here's my (admittedly limited) selection of misfit bits of software that are just to good not to mention.

First up might as well be Distant Suns. Mike Smithwick's superb bit of astronomical software should be in anyone who even has the vaguest interest in the night sky's software collection. You can spend hours trawling around the ephemeris, tracking comets and planets, finding out more information on star systems, looking at close up pictures of the moon – it's almost like having 'The Sky at Night' on your Amiga.

And that really sad link brings me onto our next selection, pop pickers – Airlink. Airlink is one of those products that you might never hear about, but would come in really handy for you. You might have difficulty getting a copy of it now that you do know about it, but you should be able to at least try the number at the bottom of this section if you are interested.

So what does it do? Basically speaking, using Airlink, you can control any infrared device within range of your Amiga. Airlink is specifically aimed at DTV people who want to control their VCRs from the Workbench screen and consists of a small box at the end of a cable which plugs into your second mouse port.

You can recreate your video's remote control on the screen using DPaint and then make areas on the brush 'hot' so that they act as buttons whose functions are set within AirLink's interface. It's a really simple system and one that works extremely well.

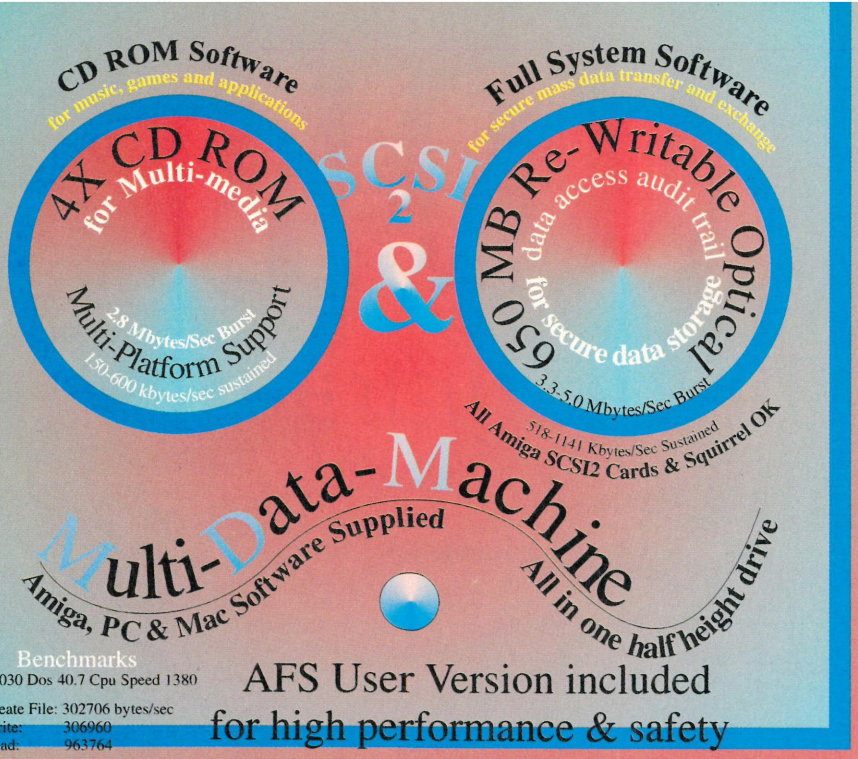
My third and final treat is a piece of software that is variously described as a programmer's tool, which is true – programs like ProControl and Fiber Factory have been written using it – and as a multimedia package, which is also true since several POI systems have been created using it. It's both. It's CanDo, a program with a six-year pedigree, and I have used it to create my AmiTCPHelper program and a couple of front-ends for slide show-type affairs.

- **Airlink** £tbc Cybersystems 01843 292150
- **Distant Suns** £27.95 HiSoft 01525 718181
- **CanDo** £229.95 Emerald Creative 0181-715 8866

Will there be more?

So there you have it. A short guide to the best software for your Amiga. There are so many other categories to deal with like disk utilities, back up programs, educational, sampling, structured drawing, communications, programming, and so on. Perhaps we will be able to print a continuation of this article at some point dealing with these other categories, we'll see.

In the mean time, do go out and buy some of the software I've told you about here. Your continued support of the Amiga software market will ensure future versions of the software that is still being developed, and make sure our remaining software doesn't go the way of ADPro, ProPage, DPaint, Brilliance and all those others.



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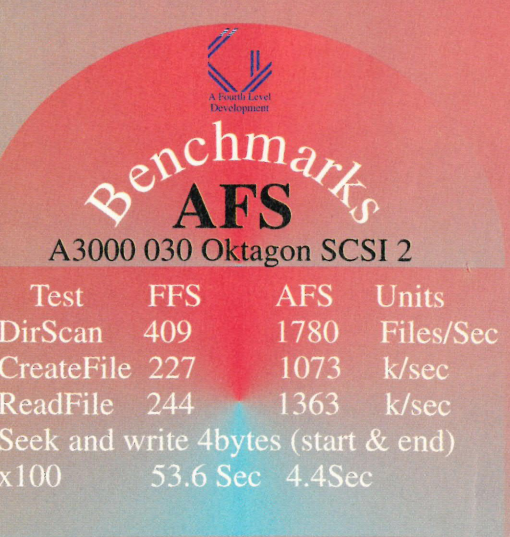

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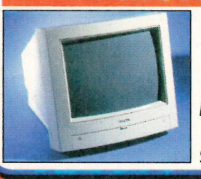

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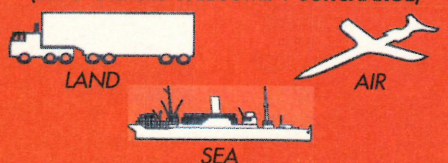

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U645 PC EMULATOR V2.3 (WB3 only) SVGA PC emulator
U650 COPY & CRACK TOOL 2 more powerful copy program
U680 NEW SUPER VIRUS KILLER(not WB3)kill 316+ virus
U689 FORCASTER V2-horse racing predition program
U690 ASSASIN COPIER (tots)include Xcopy3/docpy ect
U694 SUPER DUPER 3. (NOT WB1.3) Vfast disk copier
U696 AMITOOL PROFFESIONAL disk database tool
U699 MEGACHEAT V3 +more games cheat even for)
U700 ANIMATION CONSTRUCTION KIT V1.2 + good
U702 V MORPH V2.create smooth morph animation
U703 POOL TOOLS 2(Latest)prediction horse racing.
U705 TRONIC Best circuit board+examples
U707 GAME TAMER(3&4)-(2)For even more games cheat.
U708 LAST WILL & TESTAMENT-write your will
U710 PERFECT-PAINT 32 Very easy to use paint package
U714 ENGINEER KIT various test kit for Amiga
U718 MAGNUM 1.9 REGARD the best disk magazines creator
U721 FONT FARM V3 + load of font + font viewer
U723 ICON-MAKER the best rate as the most versatile ripper
U724 PARNET SET UP(2) require for the connection
U725 PARNET CABLE MAKER INSTRUCTION project save £££
U726 ARNET MASTER (3) parnet manual.
U729 ASSASIN BOOT UTIL 50 boot block creater util
U730 SOFT AGA (A500plus or A600) & min 1.5 meg
U731 A - Z GAMES CHEAT for over 500 games
U732 MINI BENCHMARK TERMINATOR 2 effect
U736 AWARD MAKER II+hundred of ready made
U737 ASSASIN CRUNCH & COPY TOOL (WB 1.3 only)
U738 SLICK PROCESS (2) Very fast disk copier
U739 TURBO IMPLODER V3.1 powerful disk cruncher
U740 CROSS DOS 5.1 plus read/write PC<>AMIGA disk
U741 HD-DISK TOOLBOX +many more Disk util recommend
U742 HOW TO CREATE AUTO use, Most complete + util
U743 Util .Disk .Maker v3. MAKE AUTO BOOT DISK
U744 FRACTAL MANIA+BIOMORPH Brillient collection
U745 AF WORKBENCH (3)Wb 1.3 replacement enhancement
U746 3D GARDEN DESIGNER & wiew from any angle bril
U747 ASTROMY V2 predict star planet prediction.
U749 DISK REPAIR 3(floppy & HD)include soft-protect
U750 MUSIC CATALOGUE.(not A500(1.3) very easy to use
U751 SYTEM CHECKER TOOL must for any Amiga owner
U753 HARD DRIVE UTIL+lot more Hard DRIVE UTIL
U754 FANTASY installer (complete)
U755 PRO CAD electronic.latest circuit board designer
U758 WB MENU LAUNCHER-menu system, easy to use
U760 ICON PLUS (3DISK) hundreds of stunning ICONS
U761 RESOLOKIT 1.4 latest WB1.3 emulator
U762 FAKE FAST MEMORY make more older software run
U777 TELE TEXT RECIEVER project. highly recommend
U781 GRAPHIC-DATA very informative why some programe refuse to run. also moniter Amiga activity. RECOMMEND
U783 POOL WINNER GOLD must for all gamber
U789 HADRON MEMORY V2 use HD as memory (re MMU)
U790 WINDOW BENCH V2 (WB 2/3) 2disk new workbench replacement, include lot of useful utilities
U791 COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC TEST V9 amiga Fault finding
U800 PRINT A CARD include many ready made
U801 MULTI-PRINT V4 lot of printing util
U805 DISK PRINT print custom disk labies
U807 FONT & PRINT Load of utilities to wiew & print your font collection. RECOMMED
U830 POOL WIZARD -(football) prediction
U832 DIVENDEND WINNER - Prediction rograme for use with LITTLE WOOD, VERMON, ZETTER Ect
U834 FORCASTER 2.02 New Horse prediction Prog
U839 AUDIO MAGIC 4-Prectracker V3,Exootic ripper
U843 AUDIO MAGIC 8- Octamed player ect
U846 C64 emulator V3 (2DISK) C64 emulatorlatest
U848 SPECTRUM EMULATOR V2- Spectrum emulator latest
U850 EAGLE PLAYER (2disk) the best music player.
U851 DELI-TRACKER (2disk) play all music format.
U881 SONIC DRUM KIT V2 Make drum sample
U882 DISK COPY Pack- collection of 10 disks copier
U883 OPTI-Utils 1-over 30 disk copier/Optimise ect
U885 INTUITION BENCH MARK V6.5 (Not Wb1,3) sysinfo
U886 COMPLETE WB UTIL (2DISK) very useful Util col
U887 DISK REPAIR KIT 4-Include disk repair, undelete,softprotect, diskmate, sysinfo,ect
U950 STEREO-SCOPE V2.a (not A500i.3)
This is the RAMDOM DOT STEREOGRAM generater.
U951 FORTH PROGRAMMING (NOT WB 1.3)
U957 SCALA BACKGROUND (2disk) High quality image
U960 PROGRAME LOADER-New Intro disk menu
U961 MAGAZINE E 3(2disk) science fiction magazine
U963 AMOS & AMOS PRO COMMAND EXTENSION
U967 PRO-GAMBLE-Super Horse Prediction programme.
U978 DELUXE PAINT 4 BUDDY SYSTEM-(2) Get the most out deluxe Paint instan on line for evry fuction
U981 VIRUS CHECKER V6.54 -AUTO UPDATE MONTHLY=
U982 DIRECTORY OPUS V4 add Extra Command/BUTTON
U983 MAGIC WB & MAGIC MENU ..Both Latest version
U986 VIRUS-WORKSHOP V5.1-the best Virus killer
U987 GRAPHIC-CONVERTER (2D) Convert picture ect
U988 TURBOCAT Auto catalogue your disk library
U989 AUTOBOOT DISK MAKER V4 -very useful
U993 MAGNE STUDIO V2.(2D) The best PD image (picture) processor available rival even the commercial costing hundres of pound. (not k1.3)
U969 POWER-CACHE 5-(HD) Speed up disk loading,Accesses
U970 HARDDRIVE SECURITY II Large collection of HD scerity programe eg Lockout2,Password & many more
U971 HARD-DISK & FLOPPY DISK DOUBLER (EpulnotWB1.3)
U973 CHEAT FOR 800 + GAMES, LEVEL CODE V3.3.(2)
U974 HD GAMES INSTALLER 2 install tops games to HD.
EG.ZOOL, Rise Of the robot,Mortal Combat 2 & more
U975 DMS V2.04 Pro. Crunch entire disk. (not1.3)
U976 MAGIC SLECTOR V1.4-Change Magic WB back drop
U977 MAGICWB ICON ARCHIVE (3) 1000's of MGwb Icons
U998 X-PASSWORD-protect your hard/floppy drive
U979 ICON ACHRIVE(3) 1000's of normal Icon(any Amiga)
U994 TEXTURE STUDIO. Render Various Texture for use with Imagine 1.ect req FPU1 (not wb1.3)
U995 PRO-GAMBLES V2 must for all gamblers.
U996 BOOKIE BEATER- gambling programe to win bookie
U997 HD GAME INSTALLER 3. Install game to HD
U998 EXOCTIC RIPPER V3.b Latest ripper
U999 HD MEMORY (new collection) require MMU
U1000 MAGIC OPUS VOL 2 & 3 (2D) more Dopus buttom
U1001 CAR DISK ANALYST-check your car performance
U1002 TURBO CAT-(WB 2&3 only) catalogue creator
U1003 LOTTORY WINNER V2-new version
U1005 BASIC-PHONIC-Teach your self eletronic
U1006 LOTTO LUNACY V2 Update latest lottery predictor
U1007 ALL NEW HARD-DISK & FLOPPY DISK TOOL 2 (2)
U1008 HARD-WARE PROJECT 2 (2) Build dozen of project even how to fit Amigas in a tower case
U1009 DATA ALERT 3-explain why your computer crash
U1010 WB2.04 INSTALLER-install A500+/A600 to HD

MUSIC

M001 BEASTY BOYS - We Want Some Pussy songs
M002 MICHAEL JACKSON - Song BAD
M003 DO THE BARTMAN
M005 100 C64 TUNES (not A1200)
M006 BAT-DANCE REMIXED
M017 GUNS & ROSES - YOU'RE CRAZY
M018 MONEY FOR NOTHING - DIRE STRAITS HIT SONG
M027 THE SID HOUSE (2 disk)
M029 SAFE SEX DEMO - Very funny
M031 BETTY BOO (2) needs 2 drives (brilliant)
M058 SGT PEPPER (2D)
M072 MADONNA - Hanky Panky Song
M084 C64 GAMES MUSIC
M115 MAHONEY & KAKTUS 2 - 40 tunes compilation
M125 ADAMS FAMILY
M150 TIFFANNY - I Think We're Alone Now
M171 MADONNA - (Like a Virgin)
M173 JANET JACKSON - RHYTHM NATION
M177 PET SHOP BOYS
M184 SAM FOX (Please Me)
M186 MADONNA (Rescue Me)
M188 JOE LE TAXI
M189 MICHAEL JACKSON (Smoot Criminal)
M194 JESUS ON E's (2 disks)
M205 RAVE - More Rave
M262 A TO Z OF C64 GAMES MUSIC (4) Brilliant
M314 DICK TRACY (Madonna) (2)
M335 STAR TREK & STAR TREK NEXT GENERATION (2)

PRINTER MANAGER

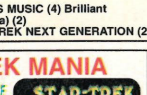
U427 PRINTER-STUDIO excellent print results
U589 PRINTER TOOL - includes typewriter, spooler etc
U792 PRINT LABELS print disk labels/banners
U793 STAR PRINTER STUDIO - for all star printers
U794 SEIKOS STUDIO - For all Seiko printers more specific printer driver for the above printer
U733 PANASONIC STUDIO - 9 & 24 pin printer driver & util
U734 CANON PRINTER STUDIO not A500 (1.3)
U735 PRINTMASTER PLUS-FONT DESIGNER - shareware
U782 CITIZEN PRINTER MANAGER for all Citizen printer owners containing many useful printer util & drivers
U884 CANNON PRINTER STUDIO -f or all models for use with Cannon printers
U757 150+ PRINTER DRIVER largest collection

VIDEO TITLERS/TOOLS

U181 VIDEO NOTE database for your video collection.
U431 VIDEO APPLICATION (2 disks) many video titler prog
U250 VIDEO TOOL (3) loads of video utils. Recommended
U964 TELESUBTITLE - new video titler
U965 VIDEO MAKER V4.3d - The latest in video
U352 DESKTOP VIDEO 1 & 2 (best video titler tool) catalouging system. Dozens of functions
U671 TELE TITLE 2 - Great new VIDEOS titler
U513 VIDEO TITLER (2 disks) more VIDEO TITLER-BEST
U920 TELESCROLL 2 (not WB 1.3) Easy to use Video titler loads of fonts
U921 WEDDING VIDEO ANIM (2 disks) Requires D.Paint 3/4. Very high quality
U922 CAPTION MACHINE excellent Video titler
U923 VIDEO MANAGER (Not A500 1.3) Video cataloguing system
U925 Video Titler - very good video titler

STAR-TREK MANIA

IF YOU LIKE QUALITY STAR TREK RAY-TRACE ANIM. THEN THIS PACK IS FOR YOU. 5 DISKS OF STUNNING STAR TREK ANIMATIONS. BETTER THAN HOLODECK SERIES. COMPLETE STAR TREK MANIA PACK. ONLY £4.95. PLEASE STATE AMIGA WHEN ORDERING



STAR TREK & STARTREK NG

One of the most complete startrek shows ever including 100s of pictures from the original & new startrek NG series. Must for all star-trek fans. 6 disk set – only £5.95 run on all Amiga

Printer Pack

5 disk pack with all the latest printing programs specially designed for printing out high quality documents, text & pictures etc and it is even able to print out A5 Booklets (very handy). Easy to use.
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Printer Pack (5 disks) only £4.99

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Collection of the best WB utilities like ToolDeamon, Snoopdos V3, lost file finder, Memory monitor, Latest virus killer, Wb Disk copier etc. much too many to list.
All on 2 disks only £1.98 (not WB1.3). RECOMMENDED

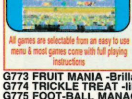
AMOS

This is the largest collection of Amos hints, tips, graphic, procedures, routines, subroutines, graphics, utilities, sprite, scrollers routines, library & some of the top games & utilities source code. This pack will help you write more quality, compact & much faster programs.

10 DISK PACK...£10.90 compatible with all Amos & Amos Pro

GAMES

G222 MEGA 21 GAMES amazing 21 games
G235 DRAGON-CAVE brillant 3D puzzle games
G240 QUADRIX very addict excellent
G241 3 MORE OUT - like Operation wolf
G253 DESTINE MOON BASE Arcade conversion
G272 TANK BATTLE 2 player tank battle game
G278 ARCADIA the best ARKNOID clone
G300 Q-BOID cross TETRIS and INVADERS.
G303 DIMENSION X 2 player LIGHT CYCLE GAME
G310 NEBULAR Excellent 3D shoot em up
G316 GALACTIC Excellent arcade
G317 HYPER-BALL Speed ball +level editor
G320 GHOST-SHIP Very good 3D adventure
G325 BATTLEMENT hunch back of notcha
G326 MEGA GAME COLLECTIONS III 3 top games
G329 MADONNA NUDE PUZZLES for 18+ only
G331 GRAVITY massive space exploring game
G333 CYBER-NETIC Brillant 8 way blaster
G334 DONKEY KONG -(A1200 order code AGA296)
G335 CRAZY SUE II- best platform to date
G336 SUPER SKODA CHALLENGE (& track editors)
G344 STAR-TREK similar to RAID2 but harder
G355 DOODY very cute & extremely addict
G356 WONDER LAND amazing graphic recommend
G362 DELUXE PACMAN + best pacman ever release
G367 CARD GAMES collection
G368 WIZARD-DOMAINS-dugeon type games
G370 GALATRIZ (not A1200) Arcade tetriz clone
G373 AIR ACE II Very playable shoot em up
G384 OTHELLO best PD version
G386 MOUSE IMPOSSIBLE very addictive puzzle
G390 TETREN most polish Tetriz ever release
G392 STRIKEBALL brillant base ball clone
G399 TRAILBLAZER brillant (not A1200)
G399 WARGAME COLLECTIONS III 3 top games
G404 DOMINOES only one of it kind on PD
G406 TOTAL WARS -strategy like chess in space
G411 B-MITE CAR 2- 3d car racing game
G431 NESTER CARD GAME- hours of fun for a quit.
G435 ROULETE amercan roulete excellent
G438 TRAILBLAZER 2 C64 conversion
G441 ATOMIC 2- very good asteroid great graphic
G443 OLEMPIAD DISK (2D) Olympic sport events
G445 DESCENDER GAME tank, search & desender
G446 OBLIXOX excellent arcade/Puzzle game
G448 PARACHUTE JOUST guite playable
G455 CASTLE OF DOOM VG graphic adventure.
G469 BUBBLE WORLD GOODY Large platform game
G467 CASH FRUIT- good fruit machines
G478 AMOS CRICKET cricket games
G488 EXTREAM VILONCE 2 player battle out
G489 ENGIMA MACHINE very challenging puzzle
G490 MEGA BALL 2 yery playable break out clone
G491 BOUNCE & BLAST brillant platform 10/10
G492 ZOMBIES & DEFENDER 2 fantastic games
G494 MERCANERY SIMULATION 3D wars games
G499 LIFE -simulation very interesting
G500 TRANSPLANT dozen of level fast arcade.
G501 KLAWZ THE KAT-great platform games
G511 HIGHWAY HELL like SPY HUNTER on the C64
G531 OPERATION FIRESTORMS-brillant
G534 CASEY KUMUSAT similar to Alien breed
G535 BLACK DAWN brillant graphic adventure
G538 MORIA 5.4 The latest Dungeon & dragon
G539 BRIDGE Good version of Bridges
G540 ORK ATTACK bloody adventure
G541 REBOUNCE 2 player futuristic breakout
G542 ROAD TO HELL brillant car racing
G544 SUPERTOM CAT New vertical shoot em up.
G545 KUNGFU CHARLIES mix with platform brill.
G546 RAID 4 latest vertical scroll shoot em up
G546 QUIZMASTER very good quiz programe
G552 ELEVATION games base on lift ? ?
G560 IMPERIAL WARS - Base on STAR WAR games
G567 STARBASE 13 (2D) Bril like MONKEY ISLAND
G657 AMOS LOADSA MONEY best FRUIT-MACHINES
G659 MR MEN OLYMPIC (2D) many event to complete
G660 4 L.C.D DREAM 4 small hand held games
G664 NEIGHBOUR GAMES (2D) base on the TV series
G665 TIME RUNNER (WB2/3) Brillant graphic
G667 GOLF (2DISK) One of the first & decent GOLF
G668 AMOS CRICKET 2 New Amos cricket simulator
G669 MUGSY REVENGE gangster graphic adventure
G672 JIGSAW (2DISK) very playable jigsaw games
G673 BOBBY GARDEN + DIGGER (NEW) Brillant
G674 HIGH OCTANE Fast car racing (notwb1.3)
G676 THE DINNER GAMES very playable game
G680 SPACE-INVASION 2 - Fantastic Galaxain
G681 AUTOMOBILES - PD version of SKID MARK bril
G682 BANDIT MANIA - Brillant fruit machine demo
G685 PROFESSIONAL BUZZ BAR -Brillant asteroid
G689 GUN FIGHT (not A500(1.3)
G690 THE REAL POPEYE 64 (a500 1.3 only)
G692 SYSTEM DEFENCE Defender clone
G698 AMIGA-BOY-Game boy emulaor + tetriz
G732 DETHELL IN SPACE. Recommed.
G735 OVERLANDER Brillant arcade MOON ALERT
G737 SERIOUS BACKGAMMON The best in PD BG
G771 STAR WOID (2 Disk) brillant Thrust
G772 UN-SENSIBLE SOCCER very similar to Sensible soccer games. RECOMMEND



All games are selectable from an easy to use menu & most games come with full playing instructions

101 GAMES 2
PRICE ONLY £10.99
This is the very latest all new 101 games compilation pack 2 containing some of the very best in PD games like Zeus, Wonderland, Dragonfiles etc. Much too many to list.
COMPATIBLE WITH ALL AMIGAS

G872 SCHNEBITZ Commercial quality puzzle games
G875 DELEXE GALA v2.3(new) add new feature & bouns gamme + 2 player RECOMMEND. get it now
G876 THE KRITLIAN WARRIORS-ELITE2/Epic
G878 QUANTUM-Maze colect & escape type games
G879 RAG TO RICHES - like MONOPLY

NEW
101 GAMES PK 3
New 101 pack 3 contains over 100 games, runs on all Amigas, only £11.99 offer buy any 2 packs together & receive a free £4 token for use with next order. This offer cannot be used with any other offer current & subject to condition apply.

G884 WIPE OUT-mindless blasting gamse
G885 GODZILLA Another shootem up
G886 SUPER MEGA FRUIT- All new Fruit Machine
G888 DRIVING MANIAC 3D (fill vector like Indi500) car racing- very fast. RECOMMEND
G889 PLANET FALL - Luner Lander clone
G891 BUCK TOOTH ADVENTURE Very good multi level shoot em up RECOMMEND
G892 PENGO 2- Maze type games. Recommend
G893 SUPER OBLITERATION Blast asteroid very similar to Lot of fun RECOMMEND
G894 SUPER INVASION II -New SPACING INVADER
G897 THE SHEPERD Brillant POPULUS clone. REC
G898 ALIEN GENOCIDE (2) Shoot aliens set in space.
G899 PUCKMAN Pacman better than the original around.
G900 SUPER-BATTLE ZONE.3D (not WB1.3)
G901 M*A*S*H a (ANTWAR 2) play very similar to LEMMINGS & MINDBENDER lead of (Brillant)
G904 LAST SOLDIER (2) multilevel platform games
G905 CBBERTECH (2) excllent ALIEN BREED Clone
G906 DRAGMAN any one for a game ?
G907 ACE SPACE type Platform games
G908 COLOURMANIA slide/Klatriz type puzzle games
G910 HARRY-HADDOCK- Brillant platformer games
G912 WORLD CLASS CRICKET (2) Like no other car/tank ect to win. extremly addicted. get it
G913 ARCADE GAMES CLASSIC Vol 1 & 2 (2d)
G914 HELICOPTER-play like Desert Strike
G915 COW WARS. Very addicted 2 player games
G916 ISLAND -Play like Monoply.
G919 COP THE LOT 2- Pro Latest Lottery preditor
G920 LOTTERY PROFFESIONAL This version use
G921 MONOPLY. (board games) The best version
G922 JET WILLY 3 - excellent platform games
G923 FLAMMING ENGINE-better than racing
G924 POWER MACHINES. Grahicaly brillant shoot
G925 SUCIDE-MACHINE Operation wolf style
G926 ZAXXON 3D Superb C64 3D blaster games
G927 BOING V3. Great platformer. recommend
G928 PUNTER-Animate horse racing games
G929 ARCADE JIGSAW (2d) includer LION KING
G930 WHEEL CHAIR GLADITOR-Very fun to play
G931 NIMBLE-Brillant New arcade puzzle.
G933 BLACK DAWN 3- THE NEW BEGINNING (2) Superb 3D adventure. RECOMMEND
G934 R3 ROCKET (NEW)very good rockets games
G935 BATTLE SHIP- the finest PD version
G936 LAST LAP - Fast car racing

GAME HINTS & CHEATS II

Play your favourite game for age? but can't get to the end of level or game? Having problem with some games? 5 disk pack with 1000s of games cheat/help/level code action replay poke etc., should help you finish many games – suitable for all Amigas only £4.95.
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EDUCATION

E001 KID PAINTS. superb paint special for kids
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E003 DESIGNER SEARCH find the hidden treasure.
E004 LEARN & PLAY I(not A1200)many maths & games
E005 LEARN & PLAY II more education programes
E006 SPANISH TRANSLATOR Spanish<> English
E008 MR MEN (WB1.3only)brillant story adventure
E009 ASTROMY tutorial on solar/star ect system
E010 SIMON & SPACE MATHS maths & simon games

E011 EDUCATION PACK 1
pack with dozens of education programs ranging from maths, science to educational games recommend suitable for any Amiga. 5 disk pack only £4.95

E019 DINOSAURS teach you all about Dinasaour
E020 WORLD DATABASE require (2)enigma
E021 STORY LAND II interact puzzle games rec
E022 LANGUAGE TUTOR teach you 4 language
E023 TALKING COLOURING BOOK young Paaint bril
E024 EASY SPELL II improve your kid spelling
E025 SCRABBLE require 2-4player. brillant
E026 WORDS can help you solve the crossword
E027 OSWALD very colourful large cartoon game
E030 EVOLUTION breed your own hybrid
E031 IQ TEST + IQ GAMES pack 1 excellent
E033 TYPING TUTOR very good typing tutor
E035 CHESS HELPER help/teach how to play
E036 BASIC TUDOR learn about Amiga basic Prog

EDUCATION & 21 GAMES PACK
Collection of the very best of education programs and a 21 games pack, a very popular combination for kids (run on all Amiga) 5 disks pack only £4.95

E038 AMIGA TUTORIAL 7 part tutorial
E039 COMPLETE DATABASE very good database
E040 GUIDE TO LOWER BACK PAIN tutorial the spine & how to avoid back pain. (recommend)
E041 KID ALPHABET display all alphabet letter
E042 FRACTION & SILOUETTES maths & games excellent
E043 MATH MASTER teach/test you more on maths
E044 STEAM ENGINE V2 graphic & tutorial
E045 PROGRAM ENGINE tutorial & animation graphic
E046 GAS TURBINE ENGINE tutorla & anim graphic
E047 STIRLING ENGINE tutorial & anim graphic
E050 DRAW FOR CHILDREN teach the meaning of dream
E051 INVISIBLE WORLD brillant recommend
E052 FISH TANK turn your amiga into a FISHTANK
E054 DEMOLITION MISSION simple game for kid
E055 WORD POWER crossword puzzle ect good.
E056 WORM HOLE simple game ideal for children.
E057 APPLE CATCHER catch falling apple brillant
E058 CROSS MAZE & CRYPTOKING 2 excellent kid games
E059 VERB QUIZ find the word & it related. Bril
E061 KING JAMES BIBLE (4d) complete bibles excel
E066 TARROT clairvoyant in a instance
E068 GALLOW fancy a games of hang man?
E070 MATH DRILLS teach all basic math skill Vgood
E071 ERROR INFO give info why your amiga crash
E075 WORLD WAR 2 graphics tutorial on WORLD-WAR releate program eg simulate Starprobe/ molecube/ ect
E076 SCIENCE an excellent collection of science ideal for all who interesting or studies in science recommend. this pack come on 4 disks
E080 KIDPRIX great children paint programme.
E081 ASTRONY PACK- This is a mazing collection of programe relate to astronmy. can help to locate certain or star position ect. must for anyone who studies astromy or hobby. great (4DISK)
E079 PICTURE & LETTER learn to read+ first step
E074 AMIGA BEGINER GUIDE tutorial on Amiga
E085 NODDY PLAYTIME demo >Very good
E090 KID PIX more excellent paint programes
E081 D.T.P FOR KID easy to use, excellent
E092 SING A RYHMES sing a song
E094 HIGH WAY CODE TUTOR question on highway code
E096 READ & LEARN (2D) THREE LITTLE PIGGY Story
E097 BACK TO SKOOL vol 1 collection of the best
E098 BACK TO SKOOL vol 2 in education programe
E099 BACK TO SKOOL vol 3 & games. RECOMMED
E100 LITTLE TRAVELER imfomation on world wide
E101 WORLD GEOGRAPHY world with map & text.
E103 DISCOVERY OF THE ATOM. tutorial on the Atom (2D)
E104 DESK TOP GUIDE TO MUSIC(3D) guide & tutorial
E107 TRUMPTY FIREWORK ALPHABET Very entertening way to teach your child the ALPHABET
E108 HOW TO DELOVOPE PHOTO 1 (2) Excellent
E109 MR MEN OLYMPIC (2D) many event to complete
E110 CULT TV DATABASE (2D) Info on early TV series
E112 HOW TO DEVELOPE PHOTO 2 (2) delvop your own.
E115 ELETRONIC WORLDS(3D) Complete KJames BIBLES
E116 HOW THE EARTH BEGAN-theory how the BIG BANG explode. create all the star & galaxy
E118 WORKBENCH 2 tutorial (2) Work Bench 2
E119 DINO WAR Quiz on dinosaurs
E120 JUNIOR MATHS Great learning aid for teach kid on the maths problems RECOMMEND
E121 PICTURE PUZZLE brillant JIGSAW type games
E122 WORD FACTORY Brillant, teach kid words

KID DISKS 1,2,3,4,5
Excellent collection of education programs. Ideal for teaching kids various subjects while retaining the fun & game element. 5 disks only £4.99 or order seperately for only 99p per disk. Order Code KID DISK & No. 1-5

E125 JURASSIC PARK lots of info on dinosaurs
E126 CHILDREN SONG 2 contain 5 excellent song
E127 MING SHU (A500 only) Bril Chinese Astrology.
E128 ASTRO PRO-TO-The latest astrology program that accurately calculates the position of the planet, eclipe, zodiac position etc. Recommend
E130 FRENCH VERD TESTER should help you with french.
E131 CULT TV DATA BASE II (2 DISK) info on early TV
E132 WORLD HISTORY BOOK
E133 LITTLE TRAVELLER II (2) Infomation on world wide
E134 X-FILES-Guide to the TV series with episode info
E148 CHESS & TUTOR - FULLteach you how to play chess
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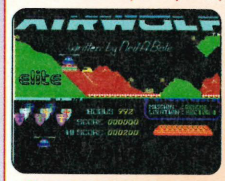

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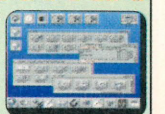

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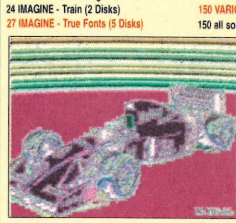

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62 IMAGINE - Babylon 5 1
63 IMAGINE - Babylon 5 2
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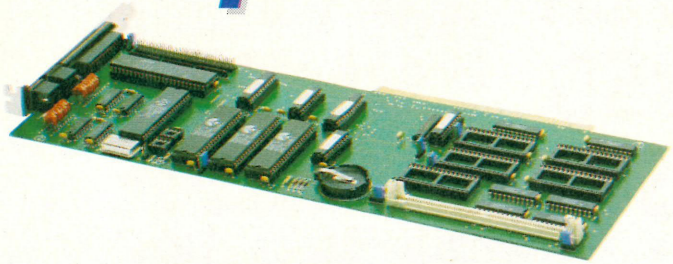
Emplant



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- *Requires 486 PC BIOS, not supplied.*

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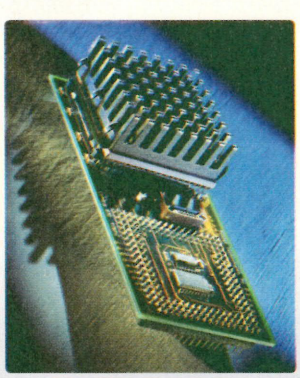
DOUBLER 4000 - 50MHz

Blittersoft deliver the fastest 68040 accelerator ever for the Amiga 4000/040, setting a new breakthrough in price and performance. The new Doubler 4000 50 MHz 68040 accelerator delivers across-the-board speed increases for all applications and system functions, translating into a significant productivity gain.



This powerful "plug and play" accelerator is 100% hardware and software compatible, since it still uses a Motorola 68040 processor. It offers an affordable upgrade that makes sense, requiring no special software. For a moderate price, users get twice the processing power, yet retain 100% of their Amiga investment. No software upgrading, reconfiguration or incompatibilities.

The Doubler 4000 accelerator is an easy-to-install daughter board that simply *replaces the 25 MHz 68040 CPU with a faster 50MHz version already installed.* Anyone who can install a SIMM can install the Doubler 4000. Customers are supplied with photo-illustrated installation instructions plus the necessary extraction tool to perform the installation.

Simply putting a faster processor into an Amiga does not help much unless the system can supply enough data to keep it busy. That is why the Motorola 68040 contains a large on-chip cache. This cache frees the Doubler 4000 to work semi-independently of the Amiga memory subsystem. In fact, 85% of the time the cache contains the data and instructions necessary for the Doubler 4000 to operate at full speed.

The Doubler 4000 includes an on-chip math co-processor, and will dramatically speed up any application - such as rendering - that depends on calculations. It is completely reliable and system safe. An integral cooling system ensures that the Doubler 4000 runs cooler and more reliably at 50 MHz than the original processor.

RELATIVE PERFORMANCE (SysInfo V3.15 benchmarks.)

DHRYSTONES	A4000/40	17,973	DOUBLER 4000 :	36,126
CPU MIPS	A4000/40	18.76	DOUBLER 4000 :	37.72
DISK MBYTES/SEC	A4000/40	1.40	DOUBLER 4000 :	1.58

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Paul Painting perfection

Paul Austin examines the ultimate in freehand Amiga art

The problem with most Amiga graphics tablets is one of sensitivity. In the past, Amiga tablets have offered the ergonomics of a pen, but that's about it. Fortunately Wacom, a company renowned for graphics tablets on both PC and Mac, also support the Amiga via TVPaint and Shareware author Roland Schwingel.

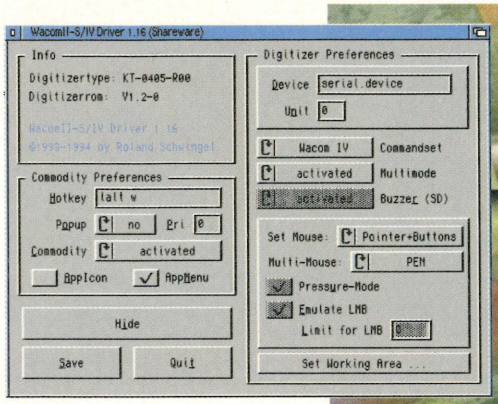
Although sensitivity isn't an option on Workbench – as there's no need outside specific applications – you can still replace the mouse with the cordless pen and tablet for general Amiga interaction.

Once installed in the WB-Startup drawer, the pen and tablet kick in on boot-up allowing all the normal click, select, drag and drop options associated with the traditional Amiga mouse. However, this doesn't mean you sacrifice the trusty rodent, because both devices work happily in tandem, with the tablet attached to the serial port rather than the mouse port. And because the control software operates on a system level, you're free to apply the tablet's ergonomic talents with any application you choose, regardless of whether it offers direct support.

Obviously, if the software doesn't offer pressure sensitive support you are limited to basic on/off application, but even so there's still an appreciable benefit within a number of applications in addition to just paint programs. Freehand sketching and general use within 3D applications, structured drawing software. In short, any program that can benefit from the subtlety a pen can provide.

Another major plus for the Wacom, as opposed to many other Amiga tablets, is its extremely economical use of CPU time. All too often, tablets attached to the serial port eat up a disproportionate amount of processor time and therefore dramatically reduce the overall performance of the machine.

Set-up and installation of the Wacom is extremely simple courtesy of the Wacom control commodity, which as you can see only requires the minimum of effort to accommodate any tablet in the Wacom range. After setting the various toggle switches, the working area of your tablet will be online. At this point the nib reacts as the left mouse button, with a double push opening drawers or applications, while a single push and hold will select and drag.



Simple set-up and guaranteed trouble free sketching in any application

Just try to do these simple squiggles without a pressure sensitive tablet – it's almost impossible

The right mouse button is replaced with a nicely designed micro-switch on the pen itself, which rests conveniently beneath the forefinger. Add the two together and you have all the traditional mouse options in a pen.

Thanks to TVPaint, Amiga users are finally allowed access to the sensitive touch which professional artists demand from a quality graphics tablet. Before firing-up the TVPaint, the first step is to shut down workbench emulation as this frees the serial port and therefore the tablet for TVPaint's built-in control. After selecting and saving the appropriate tablet name and your serial configuration from the start-up screen, you're ready to get creative.

PRESSURE SENSITIVE

Once inside the software you're automatically in tablet mode, although, like Workbench, your mouse is still active if the need arises. Although not obvious at first, pressure sensitivity affects every application of paint to canvas. Using the airbrush pressure translates into the density of paint, while a normal pen's footprint grows and shrinks as you apply the pressure. Even cut brushes benefit from the pen as the pressure applied translates into the transparency of the stamped brush. You also have complete control over the way the pressure translates to the canvas.

For solid brush strokes this defines to the amount the brush stroke will grow as the pressure is applied via a user defined percentage. Better still, there's even a definable pressure curve which will fine tune the affect in relation to the pressure applied. However, perhaps most important of all is the overall feel and speed of the tablet.

The freedom from a cord is an obvious bonus, and when this is combined with unparalleled speed and a light, accurate touch, you arrive at simply the most responsive and natural interaction between man and machine imaginable.

AC

Small but beautiful

As you've probably noticed, Wacom tablets aren't cheap. Even the UD-0608-R, which incidentally is the smallest in the range, offers only a 153.6mm x 204.8mm working area.

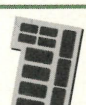
Although this may sound uncomfortably small, I found it perfectly adequate, and it's already played a key role in most of my recent creations, including a number of magazine covers and illustrations.

If you have a copy of TVPaint and want the best from it, a pressure sensitive Wacom is an essential. And after ten minutes you'll wonder how you got by without one.

SYSTEM ESSENTIALS

RED = Essential **BLACK** = Recommended

TVPaint 3.0


RTG card

The bottom line

Product: Wacom UD-0608-R (PC)
Supplier: Computers Unlimited
Price: £425
Tel: 0181-200 8282

Ease of use	**10**
Implementation	**9**
Value for money	**8**
Overall	**6**

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We'd like to just say thank you to Escom for saving what it a phenomenal computer based around some of the strongest friendships and good feeling we have ever come across. I'm sure we speak for everyone in our world, from the users in the street to the biggest Amiga magazines and companies, when we say thank you for having enough vision in a profit orientated industry.

Anyway, enough of the slop, back to what matters, me, erm, I mean V12! To anyone who hasn't yet tried us out, where have you been? Oh, Russia. Fair enough. But now's your chance, PD at the right prices, not £2.50 a disk, not £1.50 a disk, not even £1 a disk (this is beginning to sound like an auction) our PD is only these tiddly little prices:

1-5 disks – 65p each
6-9 disks – 60p each
10+ disks – 50p each
P+P is only 50p on any size order!

And, of course, there is the Catdisk, almost biblical in reputation, it's what legends are written about, quests are started for, chips are fried for, lager is drunk for...erm, it's good anyway. Its written by us, which can only be a good thing (I think), lists 7500 titles reviewed by us with descriptions nicked from another catdisk. And our catdisk is actually humorous, not mind numbingly boring, cos we're funny guys and gals here! It's on two disks, with at least four free PD games on it which are different each month, and it's only 50p which is refunded on your first order by a free disk selection. Where can you go wrong, eh? Just send 2 first class stamps or 50p to us and we'll get it to you sharpish.

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So, now you know about us, are you going to carry on with your old library? Do you realise you'd get at least twice as many disks from us for the same price as from others? So why don't you come and join in our party, I'll pour you a cider myself! Join the "I'd rather eat shrubbery than pay more for PD Club", if you join our membership scheme, a further 10% can be saved and up to 30% of your blank disk orders can be PD titles for 10p each!!!

We cater for everyone from A500's to 1200's and all between. Please specify your Amiga type when ordering your Catdisk as we now have two separate versions to make life easier. Welcome to the club and I'll leave you with a joke:

What's the difference between an old pensioner and a baby?
5 minutes at gas mark 7 (chuckle!)

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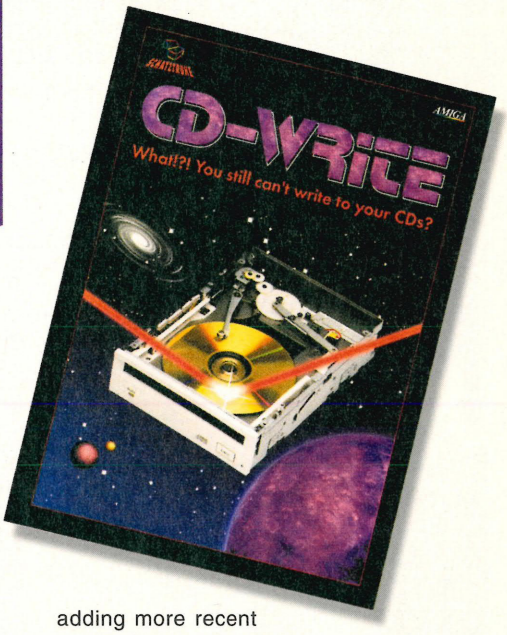
Write on ROM

A new piece of software from Germany claims to allow users to write to CD-ROM, but can it really be true? Gareth Lofthouse finds out



CD-ROM has been unrivalled as a cheap way of storing vast quantities of data, but until very recently the average computer user has been unable to record their own data onto disc. Things have changed with the release of Panasonic's read-write drive, reviewed last month, but with an asking price of over £500 it's still not an affordable option for many of us.

Not surprising, then, that the release of Schatztruhe's CD-Write software has been anticipated with some enthusiasm – along with an understandable amount of scepticism at the same time.

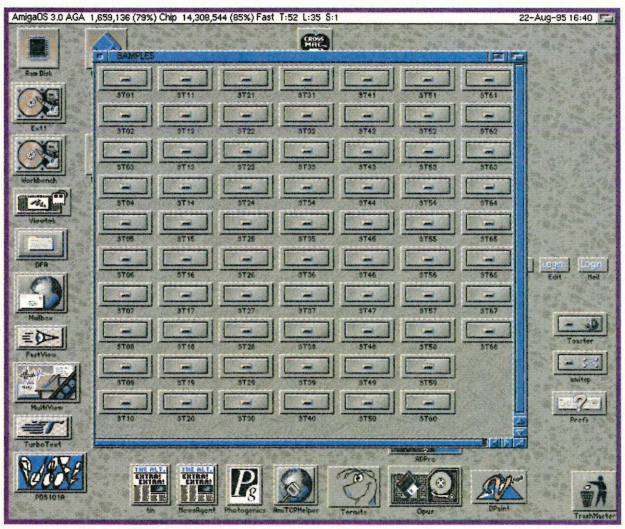
Those who were misled by the product's name will be disappointed to find that CD-Write is not the miraculous super bargain it initially sounds like. This software does not allow users to *physically* write any information onto CD, so any thoughts of having a portable 600+ Mbs storage format at your disposal to do with as you wish should be put aside right now.

So the answer to the boast on the box saying, 'What !? You still can't write to your CDs?' is an emphatic **no** as far as CD-Write goes. Evaluate it on terms of what it really does for your money, however, and this product begins to look rather useful nonetheless.

MODIFICATIONS

In reality, CD-write allows users to *virtually* add, delete or modify data on their discs. The difference is that the alterations are recorded in a drawer on your hard drive rather than on the actual CD itself. The package is simply comprised of a single floppy containing the software, and a manual, most of which seems unnecessary for the basic applications most people will use CD-write for. Installation is fully automatic with the only other requirement being that the user must create a new directory in which CD-write will record alterations to CDs.

From then on, every time you use a CD it will bring up *two* icons on your Workbench, one of which will be a pseudo



Tidy your drawers: CD-Write could help you make sense of your disc chaos

version of the CD created by the software. The other icon means that the original disc contents are always available should you wish, for example, to access a file which has been virtually deleted.

In practice, CD-write allows users to reorganise and amend discs to optimise them for their individual requirements. Unlike when using a disc normally, for example, the user will be able to rearrange its appearance on the Workbench – by moving icons, changing window sizes, and so on – and then snapshot the preferred set up so it will appear whenever the CD is accessed.

It's also possible to add new programs to your CDs, though these will actually be recorded on your hard drive. Thus the four disc Aminet set could be updated by adding more recent downloads, and it will all conveniently appear in your CD0 window. Those Amiganuts who have to give Workbench their own customised appearance will also be able to replace boring and repetitive CD icons with more interesting buttons using Magic WB.

If a CD is to be used for BBS services, the program can also be used to make certain files unavailable by virtual deletion. This could be useful to prevent illegal downloads. The packaging claims many other applications are possible, but that's basically what it's all about. A final point, though, is that the program will work fine with multiple CDs. AC

CD optimiser

Where the product will come into its own will be in organising all those poorly categorised CDs that have flooded the market over the past few years. By creating new directories and shifting or deleting data to suit, collections can be changed from chaotic time-consumers to orderly, well structured libraries.

Take music sample collections for example, as they're often the worst of the bunch when it comes to organisation. This product will allow you to virtually delete all the rubbish and arrange the material of actual value into logically named drawers. For once you could have all the drum loops in one drawer and all the orchestral samples in another.

Verdict

More of a CD optimiser than the miracle product it's billed as, CD-Write is an unusual but welcome program all the same. Too often, files on disc archives are lumped willy nilly into huge, unstructured directories, and this package could help users begin to make sense of them.

Of course, any major overhaul of a disc's organisation could be almost as laborious as compiling a new archive yourself, but even a few changes can make useful material more easily accessible.

CD-Write would more accurately be named CD Spring Cleaner, and the price is rather high considering its uses are mainly cosmetic. Nevertheless, it's a must for the Amiga user with a large cupboard of poorly compiled CDs.

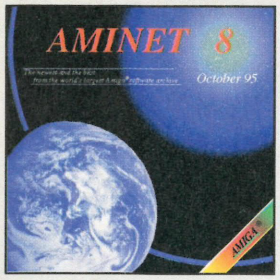
SYSTEM ESSENTIALS

RED = Essential **BLACK** = Recommended

The bottom line

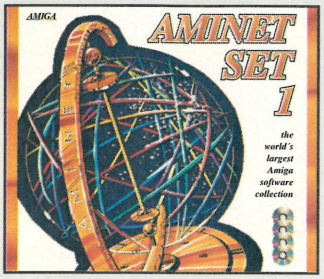
Product: CD-Write
Price: £44.95
Supplier: Schatztruhe
Tel: +49 6171 85937

Ease of use 9
Implementation 8
Value for money 7
Overall 8



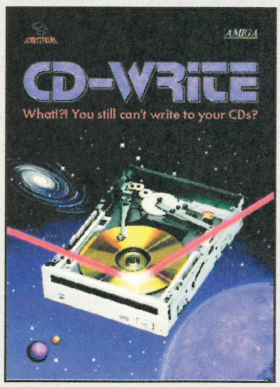
Aminet 8

Aminet CD 8, dated August 1995, consists of approximately 1,1 gigabytes of software in 3600 archives. Since the release of Aminet CD 7 more than 540 MB new software has appeared. The current edition has a special focus on modules, more than 1000 mods from Aminet were included. User friendly access software makes the Aminet CD 8 a pleasure to use. £14.95



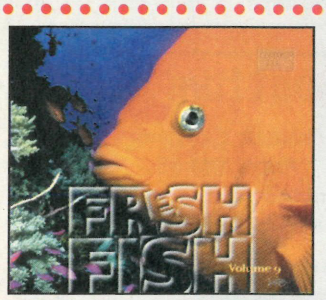
Aminet Set 1

Aminet is the world´s largest collection of freely distributable Amiga software. Up to 10.000 users access the vast archives every day and countless programmers publish directly via Aminet. Until recently access to Aminet was restricted to international network users. With Aminet Set 1, consisting of 4 CDs, the complete archive is published the first time. This CD-ROM-collection, which is dated January 1995, offers an almost inexhaustible reservoir of top-value Shareware. A wide variety of programs is included: Applications, Games, Demos, Pictures, Mods, Animations, Developer-Material, ... It contains approximately 4 gigabytes of software in 12.500 archives and you will enjoy the comfortable user-interface. £29.95



CD-Write

What!?! You still can't write to your CDs? CD-ROMs have long been an essential part of Amiga computing. Many users already own a CD-ROM drive, and the number of software packages available on CD is increasing steadily. Until now, though, it was not possible to write to CDs. We have solved this problem with our new revolutionary product: Ralph Babel and Stefan Ossowski's Schatztruhe are proud to present what can be considered a marvel of technology: CD-Write enables you to virtually write to CDs with an ordinary CD-ROM drive. From now on, you will be able to write, delete, and modify data on your CDs. This product will take you into a new era, and you will be able to utilize CD-ROM technology to its fullest. £44.95

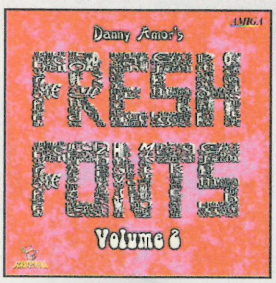


FreshFish 10

The FreshFish CD-ROM-series, produced directly by Fred Fish, provides Amiga users with hundreds of megabytes of the latest freely redistributable software. Published approximately every two months, each volume is a two CD set containing new submissions since the latest volume, as well as an ever growing selection of tools, libraries, documentation and other useful material that is updated with every

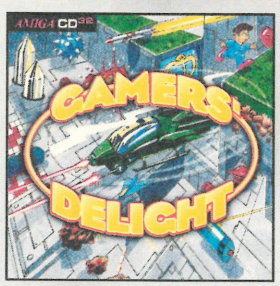
CDBoot 1.0

CDBoot is a fantastic new product that enables you to use almost any CD32 games on an A1200 or A4000 (with AT- or SCSI-CD-ROM drive and any filesystem). You can create a configuration file for each CD, containing information on the Joypad emulation. You can also save the highscore of each CD32 game. The usage and installation of CDBoot is very easy, also for beginners, due to the excellent English manual. Since the compatibility is very high, you can use 98% of CD32 games currently available. CDBoot is an excellent software solution for all Amiga-Freaks, who would like to enter the world of CD32 games! £34.95



FreshFonts II

The FreshFonts II CD-ROM contains 632 megabytes of fonts for almost any computer system. Most of the fonts are freely distributable, except for the Thienen fonts, which are exclusive on this CD. Each of these fonts is included in four different formats: DMF, Agfa IntelliFont, Adobe and TrueType. There are 231 font families on this CD (each containing of up to 8 different styles). They are classified in seven categories: Deco (63 families), Non-Latin (33 families), Pictures (16 families), Sans Serif (29 families), Script (36 families), Serif (36 families), Thienen (19 families). £19.95

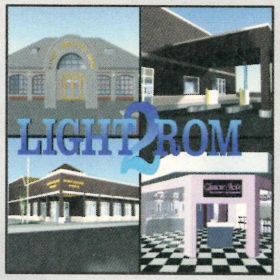


Gamers' Delight

This CD contains 40 games for the Commodore Amiga from differing categories. Action, Jump & Run, Card Games, Puzzles, Strategy Games - a whole range of computer entertainment awaits! Gamers´ Delight will hold you captivated for hours and guarantees long-lasting pleasure. All games are commercial versions - no public domain & no demos! This CD can be run on any Amiga with CD-ROM drive, CDTV or Amiga CD32 Console with 1 MB free memory and Joystick/Joypad. £29.95

GoldFish 2

Volume 2 of the GoldFish series contains a selection of software, animations, pictures and other material released on FreshFish CD-ROM's between October 1993 and November 1994, with most of the material updated to the latest available versions. All material is included in both archived (BBS-ready) and unarchived (ready-to-run) forms

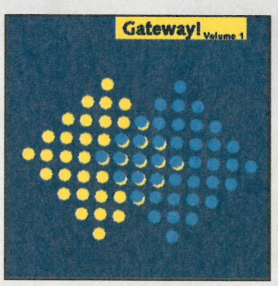


LIGHT ROM 2

The LIGHT ROM 2 CD contains almost 650 megabytes of 3D objects, images, images equences, scene files, surface attributes, bump maps and textures in IFF and TARGA formats, DEMs, and Lightwave rela- ted text files. LIGHT ROM is an invaluable resource for Lightwave users, and as a bonus, includes material for Sculpt 3D and Imagine users. £44.95

da capo

The da capo CD-ROM is a source for high-quality music, both for listening enjoyment and for samples to use in creating your own music. This is not just another random collection of modules. Many modules and samples are exclusively to da capo. Included are more than 1400 of the best available modules and 2000 high-qualioty samples. £27.95



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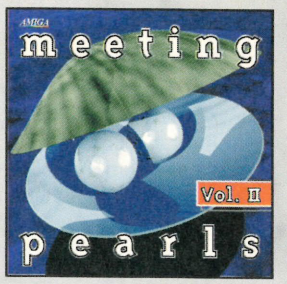
Gateway! offers NetBSD 1.0, a full featured UNIX-like operating system with both sources and binaries for the Amiga, i386, Sun 3, and other architectures. Go netsurfing with the large selection of supplied networking tools. Other supplied packages include a binary release of the X window system (X11R6) for the Amiga, with many additional clients, and packages such as perl, emacs, games, mail programs, and many megabytes of important text files such as RFCs and FAQs. A complete installation guide is available on the CD. There are also some AmigaDOS internet utilities, such as clients for AmiTCP and Envoy. £9.95



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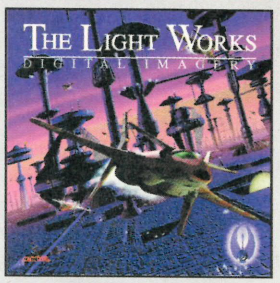

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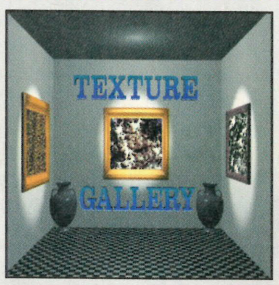

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Playing for money

Ever wondered how to break into the games industry? Gareth Lofthouse reports on how to get a job and climb that career ladder with the people who make entertainment software

Things may be different in these intensely competitive times, but in my day, career counselling at school was a bit of a joke. At the age of 15, an hour a week would be spent in a dusty office, shuffling in a bored, reluctant fashion between the rows of pigeon holes overspilling with corporate bumph. Sadly, the strained urgings of a disillusioned teacher anxious to prevent us from repeating his mistakes went unheeded.

To a spotty adolescent more interested in the latest batch of game releases than planning a lifetime's drudgery, there was little to fire my imagination. It might have been a different story if I'd considered making a career in entertainment software. In 1995 there are more opportunities, though. Once, the only way most people could get involved was through programming, but now there are plenty of openings for the non-technical majority in the rapidly maturing, multi-million pound games industry.

But where do you start? There are no set rules, but the first thing to realise is that forward looking game companies need people with diverse backgrounds and skills. In addition to programmers, any major game will require artists, musicians, producers, writers – and that's without going into the sales and marketing side of the operation.

To start at the bottom, however, a lot of people find a way into the games industry through playtesting. Playtesters are the people ➤

who get paid to mess around with computer games all day, so that the developers know they're delivering the goods the consumers want.

Most companies will take school leavers for this position, and the standard salary is around £6000 – which isn't bad, considering. However, in addition to game playing skills and knowledge, it's important that applicants can demonstrate the ability to report usefully on playability problems.

Those who imagine it's a dream job should bear in mind that looking at a screen for eight hours a day replaying the same game can be rather wearing, as any of our reviewers will tell you. The job can, however, open doors.

"I know of many people who started in this role and moved on within the company to higher roles," said Glen O'Connel of Sony Electronic Publishing (formerly Psygnosis). "Our company, and the industry as a whole, is usually very good to people once they're onboard in the first place."

IN DEMAND

Higher up the ladder, creative souls are just as in demand as computer science graduates. 2D and 3D artists are required both for in-game graphics and packaging design, and companies like Team 17 say artists are always welcome to submit examples of their work. What's more, the Amiga is still widely respected as an artists computer, and adverts in the trade paper still ask for Amiga-based experience.

Creative writers are already used for many projects, not just for knocking up story lines and game-related novellas, but also for providing scripts integral to the software. With the advent of interactive movies, this role is going to become increasingly important.

In contrast to the artistic roles which were in demand from early on in the history of game design, the number of musicians making a career in the industry have been few and far between. This form of entertainment has traditionally focused solely on making a visual impact, and after months spent designing ground-breaking graphics, most titles used to have computer jingles added as an afterthought.

Once again this is changing. Multimedia, the Japanese console rivalry and home cinema, is making game designers realise that impressive in-game sound is vital if future games are going to grab the consumer's attention. Developments like Q-Sound, a surround sound system for computer games, show the way the trend is heading, and companies like Sony Electronic Publishing already have a team of in-house, full time musicians.

With games being produced by teams of programmers, artists, writers and musicians, it seems the larger game companies are attempting to adopt Hollywood-like production values. And like in any film production, someone has to bring all these resources together to get a satisfactory end result. In computer entertainment, this is the job of the producers.

Bearing similarities with the roles of director and producer in a film, the game producer manages the development team of a software project. It's their responsibility to decide what goes into a game and what changes have to be made, but they also need technical understanding with regards to what can and can't be done. It's also down to them to ensure deadlines are met and milestones are set.

As Team 17's Alan Bunker explained, it's a job that requires a delicate approach sometimes. "At the end of the day we like to leave programmers and graphic artists to be creative," he said. "But someone has to be there to sort out the ideas and encourage the team in the right direction."

With it being the highest role in development, the producers job is the ultimate career goal for many game programmers and designers. It's clearly not a job you can just walk into, however, and most people work their way up through a company, sometimes even from their humble beginnings as playtesters.

With experience being so important for every career these days, it's worth remembering that large companies like

Labour of love

The offices may be plusher, the expense account may be larger, but the increasingly corporate atmosphere that exists in some of the bigger publishing companies won't suit everybody. Making a game with a huge team of programmers, artists, musicians and writers has its advantages, but some view it as creation by committee. Indeed, some of the mediocre efforts that have been produced by this method show how great the pitfalls are.

Programmers that don't want to make too many compromises ought to consider approaching smaller, more independent developers. Sensible Software have had phenomenal success with their arcade sport games, but the atmosphere at their base in Saffron Waldon, Essex, has greater similarities with student digs than the traditional office set up.

The casual way in which these people work, however, should not deceive you into thinking it's an easy life. The hours may not be rigid, but flexibility at companies like Sensible is counterbalanced by the fact that programmers are often working well into the night as project deadlines approach. Even more dedication will be required if you want to develop games for the Amiga market in its current transitory state. With all but the small companies putting their Amiga plans on hold until the outcome of Escom's relaunch plans become clearer, your best option may be to go it your own way.

Vulcan Software, makers of the highly successful Valhalla adventures and the Timekeepers mini-series, did just that. Possibly the smallest self-contained outfit in games development, this Portsmouth-based company is composed of just two people, Lisa Tunnah and Paul Carrington.

Between them they do everything from programming to writing storylines and making cups of tea – in fact, they even do their own accounts. Recounting tales of nightmare 20-hour working days, Lisa confesses that she's had doubts as to whether it's worth it: "I can see the advantages of doing things the corporate way," she commented. "Like getting holidays, for example."

So why do they stick at it ? Because, believe it or

> With games being produced by teams of programmers, artists, writers and musicians, it seems the larger game companies are attempting to adopt Hollywood-like production values.

Write your way into work

A career in computer journalism is a topic that would require an article in itself, but it's worth knowing that lots of people high up in the games industry started out as humble reviewers for the magazines. Team 17's Marcus Dyson and Alan Bunker were writers for Amiga Format and Amiga Action respectively, and the company is employing people with journalistic skills to write, research and edit their multimedia projects.

To start of as a staff writer on a magazine, applicants merely need enthusiasm, ideas and a flair for writing interesting, though not necessarily grammatically correct, copy. The pay is disappointing, but promotion can come remarkably quickly and there is no better way of developing contacts within the i ndustry.

Contact each of the magazines individually for details of what they require from submissions of written work. Remember also that if no permanent positions are available, you might be able to write articles on a freelance basis.

Spreading

Regardless of the quality of their product, every game company needs someone to shout about it, and this is where the PR people come in. Public relations doesn't require programming knowledge or artistic talent, but its practitioners do need the gift of the gab combined with a serious enthusiasm for games.

The job basically entails ensuring that games get plenty of magazine coverage, not just in reviews but also in previews and work-in progress sessions. This obviously involves spending lots of time communicating with the press and keeping on good terms with the publishers. It's the PR persons job to offer cover deals or help with other features, but mainly with the idea of giving the company and its products as positive and high a profile as possible.

Lisa Humphries, a PR representative for the past year with Microprose, tells how it's one of the

They did it their way – this is the staff of Vulcan software

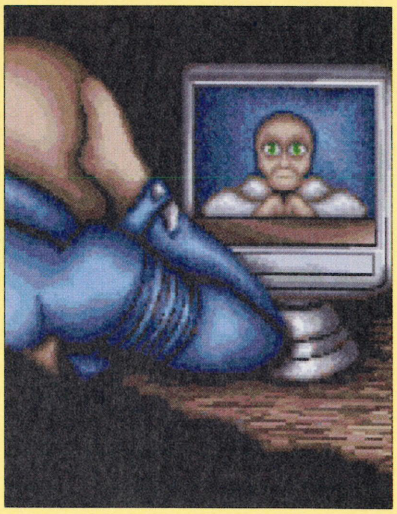
not, it's profitable and, according to Lisa, they love doing it. Questioned on the advantages of running your own business, she explains: "We do have a lot of control, and we're perfectionists. We've tried working for other people and we just didn't like it."

Vulcan are currently taking advantage of the fact that a huge installed user base is crying out for new Amiga games that are not forthcoming from the high profile companies.

This has opened the door for independent developers to show their talents, provided they adapt to the difficulties that face the current Amiga market. Thus, Vulcan have successfully overcome the lack of retail outlets for Amiga titles by shifting entirely to a direct mail order service.

Starting up is not as difficult as it may seem. "We were really into the idea," Lisa commented, "and managed to convince the bank manager it was worth investing in. You've just got to be imaginative and committed."

So if there's a ground-breaking game you know you can produce, but no-one's prepared to publish it, then setting up business yourself may be worth considering. A visit to your local Citizen's Advice Bureau will put you in touch with government enterprise schemes and other support services that will help you assess you chances.



A screen from Timekeepers, a game that proves you can make money with Amiga

Sony Electronic Publishing offer work experience, as do most of the magazines' publishers. Sony also have an evaluation scheme where they invite 10-11-year olds to give feedback on their products – worth considering if you've got children you thought were wasting time playing games.

Finally, a bit of advice on how to make that vital good impression you'll need to differentiate yourself from all the other people knocking at the door. Deirdre Murphy from Warner Interactive urges: "Network – use the contacts you already have. Offer a unique skill. And, above all, show *enthusiasm*."

the word

better jobs to get into without experience. "I was working in retail at WH Smiths," she explained. "I was selling music and games, so I had a rough idea of what was going on, but not a particularly extensive one."

Writing speculative letters and sending CVs, however, got her a job with Microprose which she says is fun, despite being demanding. However, an outward going personality is a pre-requisite. "You definitely can't be a wall-flower," she points out.

PR can lead to jobs within games sales and marketing, and hence ultimately onto the jobs at the top of the entertainment software industry. In comparison to the totally casual atmosphere of the development team, where heavy metal t-shirts, jeans and trainers are not an uncommon sight, most companies require more business-like presentation from its PR and marketing team.

Playing the money game – the do's and don'ts

Do – your home work. Take your game knowledge seriously, as all companies will want you to demonstrate enthusiasm, understanding and originality of ideas.

Don't – repeatedly phone companies unless it's the last resort. Most publishers and developers are still too small to have a personnel manager, so you're likely to start irritating the wrong person. Most companies prefer written applications.

Do – make the most of any applicable experience you may have. Work experience, submitted programs or articles, and skills developed in other lines of work can all make a difference.

Don't – imagine the fact you're a game playing ace means a lot. Unless you want to be a playtester, that is.

Do – remember that many jobs in the computer industry require good communication skills. In such cases, anoraks need not apply.

Don't – take the industry too lightly. These people are serious about making games, and they'll expect you to present yourself in a similar manner.

Do – make speculative approaches. The general public won't see many of the adverts in the trade press, so make sure you keep your ear to the ground.

Don't – be discouraged by the industry's boyish image if you're female. There are hundreds of women already employed by game companies.

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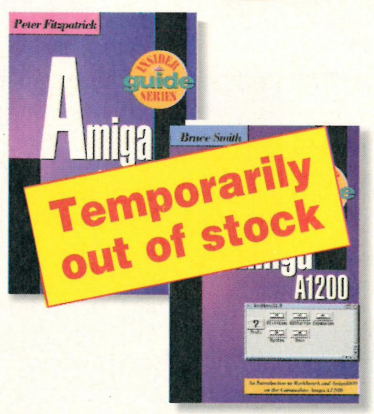

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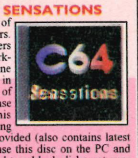

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Aminet is worlds largest collection of freely distributable Amiga software. Up to 10,000 users access the vast archives every day, and countless programmers publish directly via the Aminet. Only 3 1/2 years after its inception Aminet now holds the equivalent of more than 4,500 floppy disks of software! Until recently access to Aminet was restricted to international network users. But now all of the first set can be purchased in one go. Consisting of 4 CDs, the complete archive is published for the 1st time. One of the best selling CDROMS to date and recomended.

GET READY & PRE-ORDER AMINET SET 2

To be released this side of christmas pre order it now and you get £10.00 off the RRP thats all for cdroms for £19.99+£.75p towards the postage and packing.

(4 CDROMS) BUNDLE1 - £29

all 4 cdrom titles for £29.00. Postage and Packing £3.00

LIGHT-WORKS | MAGIC ILLUSIONS | BEAUTY OF CHAOS | ILLUSIONS IN 3D

(5 CDROMS) UTILITIES BUNDLE - £25

all 5 cdrom titles for £25.00 or £7.99 each. (Postage and packing £3.00 or 75p each)

SAAR & AMOK 2 | ULTA MEDIA 1+2 | GIGA PD | FRESH FISH 7

(4 CDROMS) BUNDLE 2 - £24

all 5 cdrom titles for £24.00 or £7.99 each. (Postage and packing £3.00 or 75p each)

POWER GAMES | GAMERS DELIGHT | LOCK-N-LOAD | ANIMATIONS CD

GURU-ROM V6 (HARDWARE) £49.99

Guru-ROM version 6 - The final update for all GVP SCSI host adapters!

Years of experience, technical know-how, and competence from the world's best Amiga software and hardware engineers are condensed in this penultimate product. it makes it possible for the user to productively and comfortably use SCSI, without sacrificing performance, risk of incompatibility, or waste of resources. Together with exhastive documentation, the Guru ROM enhances each series-II host adaptor in many decisive, for the serious user essential features: Universal: A SCSI driver without compromise for all series-II host adapters, Combo & G-Force accelerator cards. Fast: unparalleled transfer rates of upto 3.5MB/s raw (Zorro-II limit), 3.1MB/s measured with (SCSI speed) 2.4 MB/s measured with (DiskSpeed) evan on a stock Amiga. Multifaceted: supports all devices definded in the SCSI standards,ie CDROMs, HD etc By Stefan Ossowskis Schatztruhe and Ralph Babel (Author of Amiga Guru Book).

NEW

Aminet 7

CD184 £12.99

AMINET 6 Only £12.99

SUBSCRIPTION 1 £11.99

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Get yours on the day of release, or preorder them with this subscription service, credit card or SWITCH cards charged on day of release only.

CD053 IFF CLIPART 2 £19.99 - INCLUDES A 250 PAGE PRINTED BOOK

Comes in both IFF and PCX formats to cover both PC & Amiga users. includes such categories as animals, boys, cultur-al images, floral and natural images, girls, holiday images, literary figures, mythological images, scenery, transportation, and work images. The disc contains drawings of bears, cats, dinosaur's, dogs, insects, and horses. Cultural images from Egypt, Japan, Native Americans, Polynesian, and Persia are also included on the disc. Floral and natural images include blossoms, planets, sky, the sun, trees, and weather. Comes complete with a 250 page book with most of the images printed. Other sections on the cdrom are Wallpaper backgrounds for Windows & Workbench v2.0+, Grx utilities, viewers & converter's, Icons and loads of Magic Workbench software.

MEETING PEARLS 1 or 2 £9.99

Meeting Pearls volume 2 contains the following software and much more:-

9Mb	HD, CD & SCSI tools.	37Mb	Linux for Amiga
23Mb	Developer tools, includes.	17Mb	Fractals
59Mb	Text, FAQs, CD files, etc.	82Mb	TeX installation
52Mb	Graphics programs & data	36Mb	movie database
16Mb	The Party '94'	35Mb	pictures.
13Mb	Various other tools		
8Mb	Educational		
46Mb	NetBSD for the Amiga.		
18Mb	Terminal programs		
22Mb	Animations.		
6Mb	Music programs		
6Mb	midi programs		
31Mb	archive for Psion.		

GAMER DELIGHT £7.99

CD110 - This CD contains 40 games for the Amiga from differing categories : Action, jump & Run, Card Games, Puzzles, Strategy Games. A whole range of computer entertainment awaits!. will hold you captivated for hours and guarantees long lasting pleasure. All the games are commercial versions - NO PUBLIC DOMAIN and NO DEMOS!

DEMOMANIA £14.99

CD111 - The DemoMania CDROM is the best collection of Mega Demos to date, it contains a excellent menu system with a collection of AGA and normal Amiga Mega Demos.

GIGA GRAPHICS £39.99

CD113 - Giga Graphics is a best graphic collection for the Amiga with more than 10,000 pictures (2 gigabytes) Overviews & Graphic utilities, A must for every Amiga Fan. Perfect for AGA Amigas or Graphic Cards. All images in IFF format (24 Bit and HAM8). Its also a 4 CD set.

LIGHT ROMS £39.99

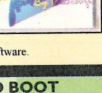
CD057 LIGHT ROM - Contains 650 Mb of 3d objects, images, images sequences, scene files, surface attributes, bumb maps, & textures for use with Lightwave. An invaluable resource for all users. **CD114 LIGHT ROM 2** - An improved selection of 3d objects, images, images sequences, scene files, surface attributes, bumb maps, & textures all for use.

TEXTURES £39.99

CD115 - 1.3 GIG of textures designed for artists. Nearly 1,000 24 Bit textures in numerous file formats includ-ing IFF, TARGA, JPEG, PICT, TIFF and SGI. All are represented with thumbnail renderings on 640x400 index images for easy previewing. its perfect for use with 3D programs like Lightwave & can be used to create Bump maps.

CD BOOT £24.99

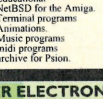
CD117 - is a phantastic ne product that enables you to use almost any CD32 games on an A1200 or A4000 (with AT- or SCSI CDROM drive and any filesystem). The usage and installation of CDBoot is very easy for beginners. compatibilty is very high.



GROLIER ELECTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA2 £24.99

CD185 - All volumes of the American Encyclopedia version 2.

NEW



CRAFT BROTHERS £9.99

CD176 - Amiga Music with a drop in the Ocean - Dancing to the Beat, Gabrielle, Requiem for an Undead, Heath of the matter, Coming Home, Here is where I'll Always be, Dawn Chorus, Rescue Me, That's the Girl, A world I never knew, The last Time. all music composed, Arranged, Performed, Engineered and Produced by the Craft Brothers.

ULTRAMEDIA 1/2 £14.99

CD071 -The first real ultimate Amiga Multi-Media CDROM. Megabytes of images, textures, sounds, animations, WAVs and FLICs. IFF pictures, GIFs, Includes a multimedia tool to take advanage of PC .WAV files.

DESKTOP VIDEO £14.99

CD077 - Over 200 colour anti-aliased fonts in sizes up to 200 points. 3d object data for LightWave Imagine / Sculpt, over 150 objects in each format. Current Desktop utilities - Imagge Studio, ViewTek, PP Show, Main Actor, Persistance of Vision, HamLab, Fractint, Anim players, Tiffing and Morph utilities, object converters, and many more.

EMERALD MINES £13.99

CD078 - Can you coolect the emeralds, defy the brain-taxing obstacles and reach the exit before time runs out? This enchanced version of a classic computer puzzle game contains over 10,000 levels. WARNING: This game is ADDICTIVE! Almathera and PDSOFT cannot be held responsible for loss of sleep, hair or sanity caused by playing Emerald Mines!

POV RAY £19.99

CD091 -Create 3D graphics like this! No artistic ability required!. The Official POV-ray CDROM is a compilation of images, scene source, program, utilities and tips on POV-Ray & 3D graphics from the Internet and CompuServe. Unlike some other raytrace compila-tions, this one is aimed fairly fairly and squarely at those who want to create their OWN images.

ANIMATIONS £19.99

CD098 - Formats support-ed IFF, Movie player, FLI, FLC & Deluxe Video Viewers for the Amiga and PC View an ECS and AGA Amiga. See how the experts use the best animation tools on both Amiga and PC. Certain to provide many hours of fun & entertainment for all. The truly talented animators featured here provide their work for all to enjoy.

PHASE 5

Only £14.99

Due out this month is Phase 5 from 17 bit

FRESH FONTS 2 £14.99

CD103 - Contains 632 Mb of fonts for almost any computer system. Also contains the Thienen fonts, which are exclusive to this cd. There are 231 font families on this cd each with 8 different styles Theres a booklet containing 24 pages with printouts of the fonts. Take a look through the book and selection the font you realy want.

BEAUTY OF CHAOS £9.99

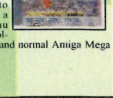
CD108 - which can be used on various computer systems, all 507 mandelbrot-Pics have various resolutions (1140x890, 1024x768, 640x480 and 640x400). They all use 256 colours. In addition to this the 20th most beautiful fractals are saved as true colour graphics in TIF format. Amiga, PC and MasOS viewers etc.

PRO GIFS £19.99

CD052 -includes such categories as animals, boys, cultural images, floral & natural images, holiday images, literary figures, mythological images, scenery, transportation, and work images. The disc contains drawings of bears, cats, dinosaurs, dogs, insects, and horses. Cultural images from Egypt, Japan, Native Americans, Polynesia, and Persia.

CDPD 4 £14.99

CD029 - Contains The complete GNU C/C++ compiler with CBM v40 includes, C Manuals, E! the complete Amiga Language, PasTex 'Tex', Music EXCUSIVE. The complete AM/FM magazine, Imagine objects, attribute files, textures, tutorials & guides, POV A complete ray-tracing system, Networking Amiga. Many classic books, Internet guides etc.



GOLD FISH 2 £29.99

CD058 - Contains a selection of software, animations, pictures, and other material, released on freshfish CDROM's between October 1993 and November 1994, with most of the meterial updated to the latest available versions. All of the meterial is included in both arcived (BBS-ready) and unarchived (ready-to-run) forms.

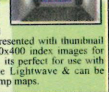
AMOC 2&3 £19.99

CD059 - 1994's complete software collection from the computer studio in canada its a double cdrom produced in the sample style as the first two aminet cdroms.

NEW

HOTTEST 4 £9.99

CD060 - Contains only the very latest MD Games, Slideshows, Mags, Demos, Anims, Rave Demos, Sounds, Eric Schwarts, Large memory & disk consuming anims + loads of 1-7Mb anims. Anims, demos, Mega Demos, Games, WB utils, Art work, Educ, Prog, Samples, Modules, Video Utils, IFF Pics, GRX, Demo Makers, Anim Utls, Hard & Disk.



UTILITIES 1-1500 £9.99

CD061 - Sujects covers like Sound Samples, Instr, Modules, pictures & Clip art mono, colour, Educ, Business utility disk, Graphics & Music production, HD utils, Workbench utilites, comms, Virus killers, Video production, Emulators, Hobbies, Programming, fractals, Printer utilities, Satabases, game related , sound related software, Animation , home etc.

ILLUSIONS IN 3D £9.99

CD067 - Contents awide selection of the most upto date 3d software and images AMIGA programs include 3d Stereogram, ASG2d, SIRDGN, and the latest StereoCAD. IMAGES - includes hundreds of source images (before conversion), 3dtext images, and 3d images (all images in PCX, IFF and BMP formats).

POWER GAMES £7.99

CD070 - Features more than 500 super games that can be ran directly from the cdrom, CD32, or CDTV Only the best section of stunning games with subjects like Action, Adventure, Jun & Jump and strategy etc

AMOS PD V2.0 £19.99

CD033 - The official Amos PD Library is the largest source of Amos related source code and programs featuring Games, utilities, Samples, Pictures, Sprites, Music, Mega Mega etc all written with the language Amos. New updated version AMO 1995 edition.

NEW

ASSASSINS CD £19.99

CD034 - 650 + Games for the CD32, CDTV & Amiga CD. Ready to run from a simple menu system. 100% CD32 compatible. Also includes Assassins floppy disks 1 to 200 archived easily copied to floppy . Workbench, Parnet & Sernet included.

MULTIMEDIA 2 £22.99

OctaMED will run directly from the CD Full documentation. Octa-MED is a commerical program. In addition we have included the full MidiCraft collection of midi & music X files, samples, modules, tutorials, utilities. Midicraft are professional musicians & have provided over 50Mb of data from their collection.

EUROSCENE £8.99

CD040 - 600Mb of Amiga demos and music. For the FIRST TIME on CD ROM Eurescene 1 brings you the many talents of the famed Eurescene gathering - drawn directly from the FUNET Internet Archive. Contains all party winners and many ground breaking productions. All archived and designed for BBS, Amiga CDROM and Unix.

CLIPART £7.99

CD042 - Contains over 550Mb of Clipart. The most comprehensive collection of Clipart ever for the Amiga range of computers. In total over 26,000 files, in B/W IFF bitmap, coloured IFF bitmap, Proclips, EPS, Pagesetter, Pagestream, IMG, Corel Draw and coloured brushes for DPaint. All ready to use and easyily accessible in subject directoies.

FONTS £7.99

CD043 - Contains 2000+ Adobe & CG Fonts with PSFonts, 500 Bitmap, 190 coloured, 240 IFF, 139 Pagestream, 24 Prodraw, 500 Truetype, 132 PCX, 300 GDOS & 230 Calamus fonts.

SOUND TERRIFIC £19.99

CD044 - Containing over 1.2 Giga It all adds to the most complete collection of sounds on any platform and will form vital part of any musicians CD collection. Contains 4,600 Modules, 14,000 Amiga Samples, 568 Sonix Scorces & 4500 Instruments, 302 octaMED/MED Modules, 1190 Midi files, 1552 VOC & 642 WAV Samples.

PRO CLIPART £9.99

CD051 - Over 10,000 - that can add a professional touch to any newsletter, leaflet or publication you create. Categories like Advertising, Aircraft, Alphabets, Animals & Wild Life, Antiques, Birds, Borders, Frames, Business, Cartoons, Cats, Chirldren, Comical, Christmas, Computers, Dogs, Educ, Electrical, Family, Farming, and Much More.

3D STUDIO £19.99

CD145 - Imagine, Lightwave & Reel 3d. From 24Bit club Scotland Exclusivity for this CD. You will also find dedicated animations for Retina and Opal Vision cards, a selection of EGS utilities and rendered textures in a variety of formats. 3D Arena is one of the better produced cdroms with some very tasty

DEMOS 2 £8.99

Over 100 ready to run with a simple front end menu, Animations Watch large animations spooling from CD. Sound Samples - Over 6000 IFF raw sound samples, Music Modules - Over 2000 modules with players, Demos - Latest PD demos and the best of the classic demos.

GOLD FISH 1 £27.99

CD010 - Fred Fish has been working to supply the Amiga community with high-quality, freely distributable software for the Amiga since the introduction in 1985. Contains the offical archive of the 1000 floppy library created by Fred Fish between January of 1986 to April 1994. See Gold fish 2 for the second in the

LOCK-N-LOAD £7.99

CD026 An Amiga PD/Shareware games compilation, Nearly 1,000 Games ready to run on CD32, CDTV A570, and any external SCSI CDROM. Includes Assassins Games 1-148 ready to run (keyboard need for CD32/CDTV users), and several hundread other games.

SPACE & ASTRONOMY £19.99

CD027 - Contains 5000 text files fully readable on the CDROM. These files include info on asteroids, astronauts, NASA etc. Theres handy viewers to browse through the images on the disc and documents. Sysops get index files for rbbs, opus, pcboard, spitfire, maximus, & BBS

FONTS & CLIPS £9.99

CD028B - How about every single font we have ever produced! over 4,000 Adobe type 1 font files, 1,500 True-Type Fonts, Prodraw Fonts, IFF Mono /Colour fonts, Pro Page II Fonts, Page Setter II Fonts, Also a wide selection of clipart Over 5,000 PCX files, 300 GIF Pics, 1,000 EPS Format, & 2,379 TIFF files. DTP Users

GATEWAY £9.99

CD165 - Offers NetBSD 1.0 a full featured UNIX-Lite operating system with both sources and binaries for the Amiga, i386, Sun 3 and other architectures. Go netserfing with a large selection of supplied networking tools. Other supplied packages include a binary release of the X window system (X11R6) & packages such as pearl

CD147 CDWRITE £44.99

CD147 What! You still can't write to your CDs CDROMs have long been as essential part of Amiga computing, and the number of software packages available on CD is increasing steadily. Until Now, through, it was not possible to write to CDs. We have Found new revolutionary software by Ralph Badel and Stefan Ossowski's, enables you to virtually write to CDs with an ordinary CDROM

DISK PRICES (Minimiun order of 5 disks)

5 Disks	For £10.00	(£2.00 a disk)	+ £1.00 For First Class P&P	£11.00
10 Disks	For £17.00	(£1.70 a disk	+ £1.43 For First Class P&P	£17.43
15 Disks	For £21.00	(£1.40 a disk)	+ £1.43 For First Class P&P	£22.43
20 Disks	For £25.50	(£1.25 a disk)	+ £2.45 For First Class P&P	£27.95
25 Disks	For £30.00	(£1.20 a disk)	+ £2.45 For First Class P&P	£32.45

FLOPPY DISC PD SOFT SOFTWARE

PROGRAMMING + TEK

^+ V0298 NORTHC V1.3 (AB)
The latest update on the public domain 'C' environment for the Amiga that I am aware of.

^+ V0523 DICE C COMPILER (AB)
Contains Matthew Dillons full featured. powerful C compiler and environment system.

^+ V0784 AREXX PROGRAMS (AB)
This disk contains several useful ARexx programs and examples. POPCLI is the latest of a must have utility.

^+ V0786 PASCAL
Contains everything needed to program in Pascal. Includes A68k 68000 assembler. Blink, Linking software and PCQ, a modest Pascal sub set compiler.a

^* V1041 DIGITAL BREAD BOARD
is a full GUI digital logic circuit simulator. Digital Breadboard currently supports 2 and 3 input AND, OR, NAND, and NOR gates, NOT and XOR gates, D, JK, and SR edge triggered flip flops, multiple independant clocks, switched and pulsed inputs, outputs, Vcc, GND, independant 4 channel oscilloscope, event counters, variable speed timer, preferences printing, and more.

^+ V1056 DEVELOPER
Contains the official Commodore developers kits for the Amiga Guide and Commodore Install utilities.

^+ V1060 CIRCUIT BOARD DESIGN
Several terrific routines for the electronic enthusiast. Includes PCBtool, a circuit board design tool. LogicLab, circuit logic tester. Mcad v1.26, a new release of this PD CAD program, now comes with pre drawn common circuit components for insertion

^+ V1209 GNU C++ COMPILER (3)
Theses disks consists of the latest version of the GCC environment, Thus the compiler, driver, assembler, linker, header files inline code generation of library calls.

^+ V1213 PROGRAM LANGUAGES
ACE v1.02, is a PD Amiga BASIC compiler which, in conjunction with A68K & Blink produces stand alone executable's. run time shared libaries are required.

^+ V1219 THE AREXX GUIDE
If you are learning Arexx or simply need some sort of reference guide then this disk is for you. It is a highly comprehensive guide to the popular programming language Arexx. uses Amiga guide system which is easy to use and a very effective way of presenting information.

^* V1227 GAD TOOLS V2.2C
A standard Amiga shared runtime library which makes it a lot quicker / easier to build standard requesters into programs. Designed with CBM's guidelines in mind.

^+ V1250 SOLDERING
a tool for those people who enjoy electronics as a hobby or those who are studying it. contains quite a number of electronic components and board types in the form of IFF brushes for use in DPaint or similar programs.

^+ V1276 ELE. CIRCUIT BOARD
A highly technical & accurate tool for designing circuits. A vast number of component types and symbols are stored in this program enabling the user to create both schematic diagrams & PCB track layouts as well.

^+ V1384 HOW TO CODE IN C (AB)
Coves Debugging, Intuition and Graphic, Kodbibliotek, Tips & Tricks, Anropa AsmFranC, Dos Intuition, WB start, DMake, GadToolsBox and Power Source.

^+ V1430 N.D.U.K V37 (ABCD)
Portions of the Commodore Native Developer Update Kit that can be licensed for distribution. Includes the fd files, libraries, startups, C include files, and tools

^+ V1310 AMIGAGUIDE
Archive distribution of the Amiga Guide hypertext utility direct from Commodore. Contains developer examples and tools for AmigaGuide under V34/V37 and V39, plus a new free print/sign/ send in distribution license for AmigaGuide, amigaguide.library, WDisplay.

^+ V1647 SECTOR EDITING UTILS
a selection of Sector, Track, Device and Binary editors, etc. Programs like AZap v2.21, Brik v2.0, bsplit v1.0, CacheIt v1.0. DeviceLock v1.2, Dfrags v3.12, NewZAP v3.3 and TrackdiskPrefs v1.0. Req use of LHA

^+ V1874 C SHELL V5.42
CShell is a replacement for the AmigaDOS command line interface. Many builtin Unix like commands, very fast script language, file name completion, command name completion, comfortable command line editing, pattern matching, AUX: mode, object oriented file classes, abbreviation of internal and external commands.

^+ V1876 MOTOROLA FREEWARE 68XX CROSS ASSEMBLER'S v2.0
These are the complete set of Motorola Freeware cross assembler's, as posted on the Freeware. The assembler's cover the 6800, 6801, 6804, 6805, 6809, and 6811 microprocessor's and micro controllers.

^+ V1877 DISECT V1.7
is a very powerful combined disassembler/debugger, which is easy to use. Its power is achieved at the expense of memory: the minimum requirement is 1Mb; for larger projects, 2Mb will be required. The programmer neither encourages nor condones its use to assist in illegal coping software.

^+ V1905 MATHS FORMULA EDIT V2.1
MathScript is a formula editor, which is used to integrate mathematical formulas into word processors or DTP programs. It has an extensive amount of mathematical and physical symbols and many control codes for creating fractions,roots, exponents.

^+ V1909 REQCHANGE V3.6
Patches Intuition, ASL, ARP & REQ to use the Req Tools requesters instead. It also adds a couple of extra features, like an Assign Wedge, the possibility to send ARexx commands when a patched requester appears, & several options to configure how the patches behave.

^+ V1919 MOTOROLA CROSS ASSEMBLER'S V2.0
Assembler's AS0,1,4,5,9,11

UTILS & POPULAR

^+ V1362 CHECKERS TOOLBOX
Incredible Amiga diagnosis program. Runs self test on all chips, all the ports and even the disk drive! All your hardware is tested and displayed in graphical information. Every Amiga owner should have a copy! Find out what is wrong with your Amiga before going to the repairers to get it fixed. It may save you a bob or two!

^+ V1405 VIRTUAL UTILITIES
Contains 5 utils containing everything needed for any Amiga user to make virtual memory from their harddrive. The Amiga is fooled into thinking it has massive amounts of RAM when really it only has a small amount mapped to a file on the harddrive.

^+ V1719 TELETEXT V2.3
View Teletext (also know as Teletekst, Videotext, Ceefax, Skytext, Supertext etc.) on your Amiga. It is suitable for any PAL Amiga (read @{ System requirements link systems req } for more info, because it uses the parallel port to interface with the hardware. An electronic switch is provided to easily switch between the TeleText decoder and a printer.

^^ V1335 LIBARIES & DATATYPES
This is a disk packed full of Amiga Workbench 3.0 Libraries and Datatypes, There's 47 Libraries from A to Z all libraries covered are right up to date and waiting to be installed. The disk also have installation notes to aid the beginners. also files in the L and Devs/DosDrivers drawers that can be copied or assigned.

^+ V1641 SUPER KILLERS V10.0
The latest collection of virus killers like AntiCicloVir v2.2a, Virus Checker v6.43, VirusZ II v1.07, and VT v2.67, Req the use of LHA which is in the c directory.

^* V1017 POST V1.86ENH (ABC)
PostScript interpreter which implements the full Adobe language. Supports Adobe type 1 and type 3 fonts, screen output, file output, and printer output.

^+ V1593 EPU DISK STAKKER V1.7
Double your hard drive capacity by installing EPU. After installing EPU to any Device (HardDisk, Floppy, Rad etc) every file which will be written to the device will be compressed & when any compressed file is read by any application it will be decompressed.

^* V1039 HD INSTALLER (AB)
Bought an A1200 machine and are having trouble with your hard drive why not install it correctly.

^* V1095 THE DEGRADERS
If you have trouble running older software on an A1200 or A4000/030/040 machine give this disk a try it provides emulation of the older machine in various forms.

^+ V1393 STEREOSCOPIC V2.4A
is a simple package that allows you to create 3D Stereograms. What is a Stereogram? A Stereogram is a two dimensional image that has been encoded with a three dimensional picture. Author Timothy Eckel.

^+ V0016 FISH TANK
This is a program that simulates an aquarium, the intent of the program is to provide a visually pleasing & relatively accurate sim of tropical fish in a home aquarium. The survival characteristics are at least similar

^+ V1022 WORLD TRAVELLER V1.1
A picture of the world, you to select a country, and then the program will display information regarding any travelling details. Zooms into more detailed maps.

^* V1136 DISK SALVE 2
Repair your hard drive with this. recommended.

^+ V1326 C: COMMANDS & LIBS
The C: and LIBS disk contains over 100 commands lie within the C directory. Over 20 LIBRARY's are within the LIBS directory. Use them for your disks. They can be used to spice the disk up in appearance and in usage.

^+ V0490 MESSY SID II

once loaded will read MS Dos disks, Convert any text (asc) files on to an Amiga dos disk so that they can be loaded into any standard Word processor. The program will also convert the text back to your IBM disks.

^+ V1611 SNOOPDOS V3.0
Log's all the dos/library calls and more when you run a program. This is handy for both the programmer and the beginner. Have you ever installed a program to your harddrive and then discovered that it will not run without a certain library but you don't know which?

^+ V1928 VIRUS WORKSHOP V4.8
This is the one and only Virus Workshop by Markus Schmall. Now in the Version 4.8 . Test it!

^+ V0424 ANTIFLICKER
A program to stop the Flickering when you use the Amiga in Hi res move.

^+ V1669 TUDE V1.0
is a very extensive and easy way of degrading your machine for all sorts of purposes. It is useful for playing old game on A1200s for example which need kickstart 1.3. There is a GUI version included as well as a CLL version so most people have no trouble using it. A highly useful tool for all Amiga owners. Good.

^+ V1523 RELOKICK V1.41
ANOTHER(!) version of ReloKick. Galahad of Dual Crew did ReloKick 1.4, so I decided to improve on that!

^+ V1354 FIVE STAR V1.0
Demo version of a powerful prediction tool for LOTTO, POOLS, SWEEP, DIGIT (eg 4d) and HORSE (races) systems available worldwide.

^+ V1356 NOERRORS V1.3
Its main function is to hide physical disk errors from floppy disks and hard disks, so these disks can then be used without DOS showing read/write errors.

^+ V0662 DCOPY V3.1
Best PD copier on the Amiga. No new Features over 2 but has been updated with new code information.

^^ V1164 (AGA) ASA FIX DISK
An entire disk full of utilities for those A1200 and A4000 owners out there who can not for the life of them get some of there favourite games or demos to work.

^* V1360 WB2.0 TUTORIAL
There is a lot more options open to you than just playing games. In the chapters Files Explained & Menus. attempt to explain the workings of WB2,as the manuals supplied with your Amiga.

^+ V1109 STAR VIEW V1.0
StarView is a mouse operated program designed to show graphically the positions of the stars and planets from any point on the earth. Most stars above magnitude 4.5 are shown (over 850 in total), more than 100 with their proper names. The outlines and name

^+ V1420 SIGNATURE CREATOR
The Deluxe Signature and Coat of Arms Creator! You get a selection of letters for use in your new signature. simply note down the numbers of your choices then load dpaint or a similar paint package and you will find the letters stored in a drawer on this disk called letter brushes. you'll have a signature to be proud of in no time!!.

^* V1242RE ORG V3.11
is a fast disk optimizer that can be used for floppy disks and hard disks. Supports new Kickstart 2.04 features including hard and soft links and High Density drives.

^+ V0685 APRO ASTROLOGY V3.5
Astro_22 as released is a starter program which accurately calculates the position of the planets, cusps and zodiac positions to within 30 seconds of arc. I intend to increase the usefulness of the program to eventually cover all aspects of the subject which will appeal to professional as well as novice astrologers not wishing to pay 200+ for a decent package. Updated version

^+ V1110 FORECASTER V2.02A
is a Horse Racing prediction program which uses statistical analysis of major factors including course/distance winner, past form weight, age, going etc, of a given race and uses data stored to evaluate each horses 'score'.

^+ V1140 FOOTBALL FORECAST
DEMO - This the most up to date Football forecast program to predict the results of football matches.

^+ V0489 AMIBASE PRO II
This is the latest database program which is an update

^+ V0827 REPAIR IT V2.01
An essential set of tools for recovery. Disk speed reports the speed of a selected drive. DiskSalv will try to recover as much data as possible from a corrupt disk. HDTool will install the OS3 disk caching and FFS to the hard drive of a lesser operating system.

^^ V1661 NATIONAL LOTTERY
This is a national lottery prediction program called Lottery Winner. It consists of a database system which can record the National Lottery results from week to week until it has sufficient data to make certain types of predictions or just a random guess. Good.

^+ V1679 COP THE LOT
Lottery prediction/database which can store the previous lottery results and also select random numbers etc.

^+ V1771 COURSE FORM
Like to put a bit of money on the horses? This utility allows you to enter the figures for the horses in a particular race, plus the course details, and then it will try to predict the winner of the race. Good.

^+ V1778 LOTTERY CHECKER
is a great tool for checking lottery numbers. Good for office syndicates. Find 'A' Date is a database which stores and matches people up for blind dates. Sneaker is used to view and change binary files, technical users are always finding these programs useful.

^* V1836 MRBACKUP V2.1.4
is a hard disk backup program for the Commodore Amiga family of computers. It provides a wide range of services to support Amiga file management and backup/restore of files to/from hard disk.

^+ V1837 DISK DOUBLING V1.9B
This package allows you to create virtual partitions pn your HD. Files stored in such partitions get automatically compressed and decompressed whenever you access them, in a transparent way.

^* V1838 VMM V3.0
A virtual memory manager for Amigas with a 68040,68030 or 68020+68851 processor.

^+ V1847 DIALLING CODES V2.00
This small utility will tell you the source of any dialling code or it will tell you tthe dialling code for any place that you enter as well. Very useful for comms people or just handy for the home or office. Very good.

^+ V1860 GENTREE (AB)
Genealogical/Family Tree program. Organise, & maintain your family tree. Each family tree can contain an unlimited number of members. Each member can have pictures, sounds, & text associated with him/her.

^* V1899 TSO II V2.2
can be used to optimise floppy disks and hard disks in order to speed up directory and file accesses.

MAGIC W/B & WORKBENCH

^* V1839 MAGIC WORKBENCH 1.2
A superb utility! completely wipes over all those horrible workbench icons , replacing them with its own versions. It also adds patterns and changes your workbench fonts. The end result is a much more attractive workbench. Easy and safe to install. Looks great!

^+ V1834 MAGIC W/B PALETTE
version of MAGIC W/B palettes 35 total!. Pretty Magic WorkBench icons for Sound & Misc Apps.

^* V1808 ROMAN MWB ICONS 7
New, high quality, standard size, MAGIC W/B2.0 style Icons/Image drawers and other MWB stuff. (AB)

^* V1796 M/U INTERFACE V2.3 (2)
An object oriented system to create and maintain graphical user interfaces. From a programmers point of view, using MUI saves a lot of time and makes life easier.

^* V1786 MAGIC MENU V1.29
Replaces all Intuition menus, supporting both pull down and pop up menus. Menus can be displayed in either the Standard look, or the modern AmigaOS 2.0 style 3D Look, and controlled exclusively using the keyboard.

^* V1747 MAGIC BACKGROUNDS
This package is a patch to MAGIC W/B, the 8 bitplanes XEN Icons have been converted to 3 bitplanes icons which will take less CHIP RAM in your system.

^+ V1746 MAGIC W/B BASED ICON
These are the XEN approved down scaled and dot edited MWB Icons for use on non interlaced workbenches with a 1x2 pixel aspect. By Eric van Velthooven.

^^ V1731 FUNNY B/G & ICONS
72 Backgrounds for MAGIC W/B Very funny. You should at least have had a look at it!

^+ V1729 CREATIVE ICONS V1.0
A sample bunch of Drive icons, Dock icons (usable with e.g. Tool manager or as Tool icons), default icons for use with the what is.library package and more. These are reflecting the style of the Magic Workbench

^+ V1479 NEXT GENERATION WORKBENCH (AB)
Powers up the Workbench photons and ready's your system for the Star Trek experiences. ie sounds, pictures etc. Put together by Gary Burdekin.

^^ V1221 (AGA) BLANKERS
Blitz Blaner 1.01 Well, yet another screen blanker. But this one has the following features: AGA compatible,

^+ V1588 MWB EXTRAS 1 (AB)
Many, many icons for the use of MWB 2.0. These icons enhance your workbench by using a special colour scheme and by adding new fonts to your WB as well.

^* V1605 MWB EXTRAS 2 (AB)
all the types of icons for use with Magic Workbench.

^* V1607 MWB EXTRAS 3 (AB)
all the types of icons for use with Magic Workbench.

^^ V1021 W/B 3.0 SCREENS
Enhance your workbench disks backgrounds with theses nice full colour pictures.

^+ V0942 SCREEN BLANKERS
A Disk packed with screen blankers which includes Twilight Zone which is quite excellent and the nearest thing to the popular Mac screen saver After dark.

^+ V1512 256 COLOUR ICONS
This disk is full of lovely colourful icons for use in WB3 only as they are 256 colour images. There are draws, tools and project types. Not for children.

^* V1043 SUPER DARK V2.1A
A screen blanker with some special features. It is similar to the After Dark screen blanker in the PC and Mac

worlds. Features include a lot of different screen effects, a screen locker, and more.4

^* V1134 TOOL MANAGER V2.1(2)
This part contains LHA archives of the binary files and graphics. Part 2can be found on disk number 873. Tool Manager is a full featured program for either WorkBench or CLI tool management. Includes the ability to add menumitems to the 2.x OToolsO menu, ad.

^+ V0401 WINDOWBENCH V1.0 (2)
This is the closest Workbench replacement to Amiga Dos2, nice graphical effects and some new utilities.

^+ V1437 FOOTBALL ICONS
Icons to found on this disk are: All the teams at this years World Cup Finals plus a whole lost of looses who didn't make it including Scotland, England, Wales & Northern ireland, Plus the entire Scottish and English Premier Leagues plus top european league sides.

^* V1883 BLITZ BLANER V2.50
29 blank modules for no cost (GIFT/CARD ware, if you want to give something): Amiga sign, Butterfly, Clock, Crumble, Dissolve, Electric, Execute, Fade, Flash, Fountain, Guru, Life, Lines, Mandel, Melt, Mosaic, Noise, Pattern cycling, Pyro, Radar, Slideshow, Snow, Splines, Spot, Text, Tiles, Tunnel, Worms, Worms2.

^+ V1884 BROWSER 2 V3.03
is a Workbench like file manager. Works like Workbench in text mode. Drag & drop files for copy/move. Fast, Small, and the only asynchronous file manager in the world! All what you can ask to both a shell and a directory utility!

^^ V1888 FAVOURITE WORKBENCH BACKDROPS/PATTERNS
43 Backdrops/Pattern. Most of these came from different sources, some I modified a little, or remapped to utilise the 8 colour Magic Workbench Palette.

^+ V1893 MAGIC W/B STYLE ICONS
release of MAGIC W/B style icons & Tool manager animbrushes and image drawers to enhance WB.

^* V1894 MISC PATTERNS/MWB
The size of the patterns is 720*566 in 8 colours Standard MWB2.0 palette. The Patterns includes: Landscapes, Stones, Chessboard, and Yoda.

^* V1896 EXTRA INFO V1.0
is a replacement for the Workbench Information function, and adds a great deal of functionality on top.

^+ V1902 MAKE ICONS
Create any kind of icons use default icons use patterns & ALL argument change Default Tool of project icons change icons image. new icons immediately on the WB

^+ V1908 TYPEFACE
is an editor for Amiga bitmap fonts. DOS2.0+ & bgui.library (included) are req. Source (in C) included.

^+ V1917 RO V1.03
is a new intuition controlled, fully user configurable file manager for OS 2.04 and newer. RO's mighty features will assist & help your daily work with your Amiga.

^+ V1929 NEWICONS IN STYLE
This is a set of icons for the NewIcons Package, which contains mainly icons for the standard workbench plus some extras. The icons are drawn in a new style, which you really will love (I hope). Also the brushes for all icons are included, so you can easily create new icons in the same style, or do whatever else you want.

EMULATORS

^+ V0719 FREECOPY V1.8
unlike most copier's it does not actually copy disks. It removes the protection so disks can easily be backed up, and in some cases be installed on your hard drive.

!+ V0817 A500 PLUS EMULATOR
Have amiga 500 and want workbench 2.0 then just install this disk onto your floppy 1.3 version of workbench or your HD for complete WB2 compatibility.

^* V1900 FRODO V1.7
Frodo is a multitasking freeware C64 emulator for the Amiga. OS2.1 and a 68020 (or better) are required, as well as copes of the original C64 ROMs.

^* V1178 KICKSTART 3 EMU
Kickstart 1.3/3.0 emulator and decibel patch program will give you the option to have kickstart 1.3 or 3.x(as used in NEW Amigas) in your Amiga. This is much enhanced over the version that was given away free.

^+ V1336 THE BBC EMULATOR
Contains commands to allow existing files to be transferred from a BBC with DFS by means of a serial cable.

^+ V1659 MSDOS/AMIGADOS V2.3
This is a very interesting utility which should be useful to anyone who uses both PCs and Amigas. The tool allows you to create a directory on which you can store MSDOS commands and then they can be used through the shell as if they were AmigaDos commands. Great.

^+ V1866 CROSSMAC PATCH 1.03
10 times speed increase in writing data to Mac hard drives. supports a wider range of Mac formatted hard drive partitions. Minor bug fixes. Added a MacBinary Only and Data Fork Only modes in CrossMAC commodity. Added a print option to the File Type Manager to print out the current file type database.

^^ V1868 PC TASK V3.1
is the first and only software 80286 emulator for the Amiga range of computers. Transfer files between your Amiga and MSDOS. Compatible with MS Windows 3+

^^ V1931 ZXAM v2.0
The latest Spectrum Emulator available. Basically it allows you to run Spectrum software on your Amiga. Requires the AGA chipset but does require WB3+ and a 68020 CPU or better. Very good if you have no spectrum!. if you have a cdrom drive check SPECCY SENASTIONS 2 it also includes this version.

^+ V1967 SHAPE SHIFTER v3.0b
Apple Macintosh emultor (very good indeed) also includes new files to update itself to v3.0b.

OFFICE & PRINT

^+ V0575 HOME BUSINESS PACK (6)
QED, Text editor. Text Plus 2.2E, Word Processor. AZSpell, Spell Checker & Dictionary. BBase, A Database program. DATA EASY, Another database. BizCalc, Loan calc. LCD, Calc. SPREAD, Spreadsheet. Budget, Personal Finance. UNITS, Various conversions. CLERK, Small business accounts. SUPERDUPER, FLASHERCOPY, Copier's. TYPIST, Typing Tutor. BOOTX, Virus Killer. SYSINFO, System analyser. DOSMANAGER, Directory program. FONTLIST, FONT MANAGER, Utilities. PRINT STUDIO, Printing Tools. (6 disks)

^+ V1114 PRINT LABELS UTLS
Includes various programs like DOC DUMP v2.1, ENVELOPE PRINT v1.20, INLAY MAKER v1.4, MC MASTER v1.1, BANNER v1.0, LABEL PRINT

^+ V1279 PRINT A CARD
Want to print a business card or any other type of card then this is the software for you.

^+ V1222 PANASONIC STUDIO
The PanaPlus driver is a software for controlling printers with the Commodore Amiga personal computer.

^+ V1236 INVOICE PRINTER
invoice printing that we help aid any small business.

^+ V0928 LITTLE OFFICE
Its the all rounder do everything, all knowing, all seeing?? Well lets just say its very good.

^+ V1179 FILE-O-FAX
was designed to enable computer operators to be able to work at their leisure without worrying about forgetting those important meetings,what they had to do on any particular day or locating business colleagues tele no's.

^+ V1467 AWARD CONSTRUCT
A very handy tool for creating your very own awards and certificates. There are many styles, fonts and graphics to choose from. could also be used to make small posters, signs or leaflets. Easy to use and very effective.

^+ V1069 PRINTER DRIVERS HP
Deskjet 550 colour driver, Deskjet 500, Deskjet 500c, Ricoh HP1200 400dpi, Canon LBP, Canon BJ300, BJ130, BJ10e, Canon_48, Canon PJ 1080a, HP Paintjet.

^+ V1278 MAIL-O-DEX
An excellent way to keep names, addresses, Phone numbers, comments etc and then print out labels loads of them in 1,2,3 and 4 columns.

^+ V1044 FANCY PRINTING
BANNER v1.4, GRAPH PAPER v1.2, DISK PRINT

^+ V1357 CITIZEN MANAGER
The Citizen Print Manager has been designed in conjunction with Irseesoft.

^* V1051 EASY CALC PLUS
is a spreadsheet designed to be both easy to use and fast. If the program looks nice, that wouldn't to be bad either. Unlike other software where the author writes the program first, then bolts on a help system, I have designed the help into the program from the beginning.

^+ V1184 AMIGA DIARY
Amiga Diary is a mouse driven diary capable of storing all personal events and the perfect solution to all those forgotten birthdays, missed appointments etc.

^+ V0366 600 BUSINESS LETTERS
Over 600 Standard business letters on this disk. Can be used as they are or insert parts into your own letters

^+ V0782 FORMS UNLIMITED
Designed to help you design and print different forms. There are a wide number of options and controls which allow you to draw simple boxes, lines, etc in order to create forms for many different purposes. Good.

^+ V0390 AMIGA FOX DTP
The first amiga PD Desk Top Publishing program. Excludes various extra features over the old Word processor, Test Editor, Graphics editor and loads more.

^+ V1680 AWARD MAKER 2
This is a very good tool for the creation and printing of Awards and certificates. There are hundreds of types to choose from then you can choose a font a border and also some of the text etc. Very good results.

^+ V1751 PRINTER DRIVERS

HP4DRIVER v35.8, HP4LSETTER v2.01

^+ V1858 DB V2.5
Small/fast database program that I wrote after having tested numerous other PD database programs and always found something lacking or irritating me. They might have dozens of features not found in db, but they lacked font sensitivity and a standard GUI look & 3.0

^+ V1862 INVOICE DATABASE V2
Intra is a rather simple, but therefore easy to use database program that was especially designed to deal with invoice information. Everybody, as we like it

^+ V1865 LEGAL FORM GENERATR
Generates custom do it yourself legal forms. Database includes forms useful for EVERYONE, plus specialised forms for real estate, small businesses, landlords, employers, etc. Can save you THOUSANDS.

3D & GRAPHICS

^+ V1247 TEXTURE MAPS (ABC)
A collection of textures for use with the any program that will take high res textures.

^^ V1554 IMAGINE BUDDY (AB)
Here's some features of the new interface: Draggable and Sizeable text and index windows · Button Gadgets for the Search and Move functions Improved Searching The text is now positioned at matching hypertext links and all matches are highlighted for visibility.

^* V1229 MAIN ACTOR V1.53
This is an all round animation utility that will create, playback, time and edit animations of any length or format (including graphics cards). Very good. (AB)

^+ V1303 SCALA BACKGROUNDS
Produced using the programs Mandel Mountains II/C.Light and Deluxe Paint IV. There's seven very large pictures called MOUNTFRAC1, MOUNTFRAC2, MOUNTFRAC3, MOUNTFRAC4, MOUNT Julia1, MOUNTjulia2, MOUNTMandel1. comes with a simple Scala script file which will save some time.

^+ V1243 IMAGE 2.0 OBJECTS (4)
A collection of images for use with the program Image.

^+ V1400 3D STEROGRAM
To see the 3d images it takes a bit of patience. Look beyond the screen so you go slight cross eyed, and relax. The picture should gradually become visible. It can take time at first but gets easier with practice.

^* V1811 IMAGESTUDIO V2.0 (AB)
is written for the casual graphics user who wishes to convert or manipulate various graphics formats on a modest Amiga system. There are several commercial offerings available, however the casual user is paying a lot of money for many facilities and options they would probably never use.

^+ V1886 DUST SPHERICAL WAVES
This package demonstrates one of the new Dust features: spherical 3D waves. The source object, the Dust script and the animation (60 frames) are included.

^+ V1887 FACE MAP
Using a scanned photo of a face as a brushmap for a human head object. The object is somebodies head, definitely not the same head as the brushmap, that somebody digitized and turned into an Imagine object.

^+ V1889 3D OBJECTS FOR LIGHT-WAVE WITH BITMAPS
486 module, Airbrush, Artbrush, Candle, Candleflame, CDreal!, chainring, laserprinter, laser printer tray, Paper tray for laser printer. monitor1960, padlock, phonepole, skydome, streetlight, streetlightbeam.

^* V1891 IMAGEDESK V1.6
is a program to catalog picture directories by generating small representants of the pictures, so called thumbnails.

^* V1906 PHOTOCD ACCESS
PcdGui is a GUI for accessing PhotoCD's. You may ... view PCDfiles, save PCDfiles as PPM, JPEG, IFF (24bit, HAM8, HAM6, ...), do a slideshow.

^+ V1907 POVRAY RAYTRACER
Renders in a window on a public screen (even Workbench) with colour sharing. simple HAM/HAM8 support autodetects Cybergfx Screen and renders in direct Colour (15/16/24Bit) if possible.

^^ V1911 PHOTOGENICS V1.2D
save disabled image size & file format limited of the final package. More importantly, you can play with the package to try out the new features and get a feel for it.

^+ V1916 XFIG V1.2
This is an Amiga port of an X11 structured drawing tool that lets the user interactiely create and manipulate on objects such as lines/circles rectangles/splines/text and other elements. Xfig can produce output in several different formats: Encapsulated PostScript, IBMGL (HP/GL), Pic, PiCTeX, LaTeX, box, epic, eepic, epicemu, textyl, tpic, X11 Bitmap, X11 Pixmap and gif.

^+ V1922 REAL 3D V2.X OBJECTS
Objects are pretty large in size, espessially the 4 cylinder engine, you might run out of memory pretty fast. My Amiga 4000EC30 + FPU is now equipped with 18MB RAM, and I can now raytrace all of my objects.

^+ V1925 SPACEDOCK STATION
* 1.3Mb, so you'll need a healthy chunk of memory. * No Slicing was used in modelling, to keep things as small as possible. * Space Doors open using the new States function. * Marquee of Space Door lights.

COMMS

Why not check out our BBS support lines (0181) 6655629 call The MYTH & MAGIC BBS Today.

^+ V1910 TELETERM V2.2
is a powerful, fast terminal program with XEM and XPR support, a dynamic phone book, review buffer, unlimited macros, and much more.

^* V1745 TERM V4.2 [030]
latest version of this very well known comms terminal program. Version 4 has even more features and although it is not for beginners it is probably the best available.

^+ V1516 TERM V4.0 (AB)
latest version of this very well known comms terminal program. Version 4 has even more features and although it is not for beginners it is probably the best available.

^+ V1307 NETWORKING (ABC)
AKIT v2.9G, Networking package. AMI_HYTE, HyTelnet for the Amiga. BMS_REPO, stats on BMS 1.16D. CSLIP, Adds cslip to 2.1/2.03 slip driver. DNET v2.10, Complete installation set for DNet.

^+ V0979 NCOMM V3.0
Is a comms program based on Comm v1.34 with lots of very nice enhancements. Has new functions over v2.0

^+ V1875 AMIGA FAX V1.42
Is a software package that, in combination with a Fax Modem, allows you to send and receive facsimile information from your Amiga computer.

^* V1722 AMIGA TO PSION S3/A
is a implementation of the Psion link protocol which is e.g. built into the Psion S3/S3a ROM. It's main purpose is to provide vice versa nfs like file access.

^+ V1852 FINALFAX 95
This is one of those arexx macros which are very handy for automating the more tedious jobs on your Amiga. This one allows you to select options for GPFax from within Final Writer. That means that there is no need to switch from Final Writer to Workbench.

EDUCATION

^+ V1079 KEYBOARD TRAINER
This program only concentrates on basic keyboard skills, and is in effect, still a Beta Version, I think you will find it a vast improvement on most so called tutors.

^+ V0793 AMIGA BEGINNER
You asked for it! A tutorial for the beginner on using your amiga! Covers the CLI and Workbench, its great for learning about the Amiga. Also contains numerous beautiful 16 colour icons for WB v2.04.

^+ V1845 DPAINT 4 BUDDY (AB)
Will teach you how to use Dpaint 4. It works by running along side the well known paint package providing hands on demonstrations of the various features. It is a very good way of learning a program so you want to learn DPaint then this System is one of the best ways.

^^ V1840 WEATHER GUIDE (ABC)
Educational tool. This three disk set tells you just about everything you would want to know (and more) about the different weather cycles, climates, atmospherical systems etc etc. Guide comes in the form of a point & click with animated diagrams, texts and pics

^^ V1843 THE TRAVEL GUIDE (AB)
Thinking of going abroad for your holidays. It consists of a map of the world which you can click on to select a particular region. There is a lot of detailed information about virtually every country in the world.

^+ V1881 AMIGATRAINER
very powerful & flexible program to learn foreign languages. You enter the words yourself, so they aren't related to any special language, school or book. every word there are 2 additions to enter.

^^ V1897 GEOGRAPHICAL ATLAS
AmiGlobe is a geographical atlas that allows you to navigate in the world map, zooming everywhere, get country data, etc. Requires 2Mb of RAM. (AB)

MUSIC

^+ V1269 THE OCTAMED TUTOR
Welcome to the Octamed Tutor, a simple guide through the basics of this excellent music program.

^+ V1207 OCTASTUFF
Welcome to OctaStuff, a disk based around work with OctaMED 3 and 4.

^+ V1882 ART OF NOISE TRACKER
NEW tracker, NO ProTracker Clone!, 8 channels, fm synthesis, drum sequencer, wave table synthesis.

^+ V1904 MUSIC MANI V2.12
is a database program that manages ALL your CDs, MCs, LPs and Singles in a VERY comfortable way!

A new sound effect,sample converter,sample generator software with : more than 50 effects converts many formats (IFF 8SVX,IFF 16SV,RAW,RIFF WAV,VOC, SUN/NEXT,AIFF/AIFC,...) * you can work with many samples (every sample has it's own sizeable window).

TIPs, CHEATS & RELATED

^+ V1416 EYE OF THE BEHOLDERS
This disk contains a selection of utilities and software for Eye of the Beholder II, like end of level saved game file, Eye of Beholder 2 special quests explanation, EOB2 Character Editor, Eye of the Beholder Solution, GIF pictures of all 12 levels in Eye of the Beholder.

^+ V1363 RPG. ASSISTANT
AD&D play time dungeon master's assistant. The version you see here is a pre release of the program in AmigaBASIC. Right now it will take characters in a text file and load them in to be displayed at will. It also rolls dice and has a handy dandy encounter screen that will keep track of monsters & their current HPs

^^ V1687 (AGA) FIXES VOL 1
This program disk will help AGA machine users get some added compatibility out of their older software. Don't forget many supposedly incompatible programs will work on the AGA machines by suitable adjustment of the boot options. (Hold down both mouse buttons).

^+ V1688 F1GP ED V2.04
This version of F1GP Ed will work on any version of F1GP, including the A600 WWW version which was not supported in V2.03 because of a bug. F1GP Ed allows the user to customise their copy of F1GP. Here is a brief selection of the features that F1GP Ed offers:

^+ V1709 HINTS & CHEATS
ACHEATS, Amiga game cheats by Postcard Man. AMI_CHEAT, cheats, level codes, backdoors to 453 Games. CATACOMB_MAP, A map for the brilliant game Catacomb. FRONTIERHINTS, Hints and Tricks for Frontier Elite II. GCHEATS, Sega Genesis cheats by Postcard Man. SCHEATS, Super NES cheats by Postcard Man. VALHALLA, Walkthrough for Valhalla. WIZBALL, Little file containing level .

^+ V1773 ACTION REPLAY CHEAT
This disk has on it a text file which contains loads of codes for those people who have action replay devices. There are cheats for hundreds of games. Good.

^+ V1848 DIY REKO
This disk has on it an Arexx macro which, when used in conjunction with ImageFX, will make reko cardsets for Klondike AGA almost automatically. Also included is a detailed Amiga Guide document explaining everything.

^+ V1662 HD GAMES INSTALLER 2
Contains a variety of hard disk installer's for a few well known commercial games. These games are as follows: AlienBreed 2 AGA, Jungle Strike, Assassin (Special Edition), Body Blows, Goal, Ishar 2, Zool 2 AGA, Ruff and Tumble, Body Blows 2 AGA, StarDust, Super Frog, Walker, Rise of the Robots, Bubble and Squeak, ElfMania, Aladdin AGA and Motal Kombat 2. Great.

^+ V1468 GAMES HD INSTALL
This disk provides you with the software needed to install certain games onto your A1200. The games that this disk can install are BodyBlows, Goal, Lemmings 2, Superfrog, and Walker. Could be very useful.

^* V1801 VIRTUAL WORLD V1.017
is a new adventure creation system which allows users to easily create large text and graphic adventures.

^+ V1867 FINAL WRITER 3 PATCH
This patch speeds up Final Writer 3.0 on all 68020/30/40 machines, things like font rendering and internal arithmetic will be up to 400% faster!

^+ V1885 NEW HD INSTALL
Hard Drive Install scripts for 3 games, Beneath a steel sky Flashback King's Quest VI. New updated version (small bugs fixed from last version).

^+ V1927 875 GAME CHEATS
The file includes text format split into two files and an Amiga guide format also split into two parts.

VIDEO

^+ V1196 DESKTOP VIDEO
Dot Matrix Stroller, Is a video titling program intended for use in adding scrolling captions to video's. Flood Effect loads an IFF picture and displays it with a Ôflood effectÓ so that it floods the screen.

^+ V1418 THE COMPLETE VIDEO TEST SYSTEM (AB)
is a collection of 20 test patterns (displayable with any IFF animation viewer) that can be used to evaluate monitors, TV sets, VCRs, and other NTSC video equipment. CVTS is easy to use, with the documentation presented in clear, non technical language. The tests are unique.

^* V1156 VIDEO TITLER
Generates professional looking TV titles and credits for your own video's.Outstanding abilities are very smooth scrolling, colour slides (AGA support)and usage of colour fonts. Limited demo version only.

GAMES

^+ 4411 DELUXE GALAGA V2.5
Version 2.5 with even more nice enhancements.

^+ 4412 EMERALD MINE DEMO
Totally rewritten shareware version of Boulderdash/Emerald Mine. Includes 4 playable levels for ECS and AGA. Highscore/Names saving and teamwork playing is disabled.

^^ 4413 AGA KLONDIKE 4 (4)
Cardsets and music selectable from requesters (support for unlimited number of cardsets) - Auto turn-over (cards turn over automatically as you take one off the deck) - Internal config-card (available before only in selected cardsets) - More cardsets on disk! (Real cool new one: AirBrush.reko by Reko-Productions!) - docs in .guide format - easier to browse-through - still no-annoying-requester shareware!

^+ 4417 KNIGHTSQUEST
Game of startegy, in which you move around a 8x8 grid with a knight (chess piece), trying to land on all spaces.

^+ 4419 CARDGAMES V1.1 (3)
Logic System Productions 2cardgames in 1. Black-Jack/VideoPoker Fully compatible with REKO Cardsets! Includes new AGA & new ECS cardset.

^+ 4422 REAL CHINESE MAJONG
Is an implementation of the Chinese game Ma Jong. This is not another tile clone game, it is the real Ma Jong game. This is a one player version, you vs the computer. Features include: scrollabe board, sound FX, customizable tile sets. includes 3 sets of different tiles.

^+ 4424 MECHFORCEHQ 0.54
environment for the well known MechForce

^^ 4427 3D WOLF V1.6.1
Floor, Ceiling and Wall Texture Mapping Wolf3D demo on EHB / AGA -BitPlane Screen. Depth cueing w/ Realtime Texture Dithering.

^+ 4428 PSYCHO SQUARES DELX
EHB graphics, digital sound effects, original music, and loads of special 'hidden' bonuses makes this one addictive. This is the playable preview version. Another fine Dark Unicorn Productions game.

^* 4430 VIRUS ATTACK
A Dr. Mario clone. Feature includes over 30 levels, sound effects, background music, custom MOD file, high score history and fast action. If you like tetris you'll love Virus Attack.

^^ 4431 BEST AGA TETRIS
Best pentamino tetris. graphics, musics, 100% assembler

^* 4433 SMOKE'EM POKER V1.41
5 opponents at once. Easy-to-use graphic interface, configurable preferences, multi-tasking and system-friendly. Version 1.4.1 adds stats graphing, key shortcuts, sound effects, bug fixes, and more prefs.

^+ 4434 BLACKDAWN v2.1
3-level Dungeon Master style Alien Breed:- charge around the maze levels, shoot lots of aliens, find the lift & move on. but do it in 1st person perspective view.

^+ 4435 BUBBLE GUN DEMO
Fully playable 3 levels of Bubble Gun by WeatherMine Software, a puzzle/platform game for all amigas.

^^ 4440 A MATTER OF TIME (3)
is an introductory adventure in which you must search for a lost scientist accused of murdering a fellow collegue. Req 1Mb.

^^ 4431 BEST AGA TETRIS
Best pentamino tetris. Aga graphics, original musics, 100% assembler.

^* 4433 SMOKE'EM POKER V1.4 (2MB)
Play draw-poker against five opponents at once (not 'video' poker). Easy-to-use graphic interface, configurable preferences, multi-tasking and system-friendly. Version 1.4.1 adds stats graphing, key shortcuts, sound effects, bug fixes, and more prefs.

^+ 4436 CYBERGAMES
Yes, it's true. You can get hold on one of the latest and greatest fighting games from Sweden, and it's for free... Cybergames is a new fighting game which works on ALL Amigas ranging from WB 1.2 with at least 1 meg

^+ 4442 SCORCHED TANKS V1.85
The awesome artillery tank game. This one contains loads of goodies like 70 weapons and 13 shield types as well as new goodies.

^+ 4443 WARPER ANIM
New Photogenics 1.2 effect; Warper used @ 5% increments to produce short test animation. The Anim is reduced to 115 X 103 X 64c for distrubution purposes.

^+ 4444 UNCODED
The Winner of the democompo at the sIng sIng party - the 1st italian party held on 31.3.1995 in milan, italy

^+ 4445 TURBO JAM
Catch flags in a maze with your car and avoid enemies. It's composed of: - wonderfull aga graphics. - original musics (sam/ozone). - 50 frames/sec animation. - easy control and playability. - lot of bonus.

^^ 4449 PSSST
This is a 1990's version of the old Spectrum Classic PSSST Main features include: - 256 Colours. - Real Time frame rate. - No C code !!!! (I Hate C) - Nice end of game sequence. - Three Levels of play (Slow, Normal, TURBO NUTTER), No Spam.

^+ 4451 LAST LAP
is a car game for one or two players. It is excellent in two player mode. There are about 10+ different tracks for you to race around. Some of them are quite easy at the start but as you go on they get a lot harder. On the tracks they have these squares which if you drive over it shoots you on even faster they you are already going.

^+ 4452 SPELL TRIS
Tetris style game but the main difference is you use letters instead of just shapes.

^+ 4453 THESIUS XII
You are a little spaceship in which you have to travel through different backgrounds. Your ship is armed with two guns either side of you, as you battle your way through the level.

^+ 4454 BATTLE TRUCKS
is a one or two player game in which you choose your own truck and then buy it. You can add nitros, new motors or even buy a brand new truck with your winnings from your races.

^^ 4457 SCREECH V1.5
This demo is not just an ordinary car game, this game offers you the oppurtunity to run anything smaller than your car over! Improved graphics are on the way (whoopee)!. Req 020's with 1MB chip ram and .5MB fast ram or 030's with 1MB chip ram or 700kb chip ram and 300 kb fast RAM.

^+ 4458 PUZZLE V1.3
This is a simple puzzle game. You have square pieces and you move them around to make the picture. It is all mouse driven. You can show the picture (remember to press the left mouse button to return to the puzzle) It is a simple program that doesn't keep track of whether you have completed the puzzle or not. Also, I never got around to putting in double buffering to get rid of the slight flashes. Oh well.

^+ 4459 SUPER EARTH DEFENSE V1.5
is a classical shooting game.

^+ 4460 CHANGING OF SATURN'S RINGS ANIM
This animation shows how the orientation of Saturn's rings will be changing over the next 1.5 years. 1995 is a special year for Saturn in that we will be able to see the rings from an edge-on orientation three times. Information on the events and their significance is provided in the archive.

NEW UTILITIES

^+ V1932 X-FILES GUIDE
The X-Files Guide disk is full of very usefull information if you are interested in the x-files. It contains over 674k worth of text, ranging from episodes 1 and 2 to the x-files transcript. It also has a survey you can fill in and send off to the auther of the disk.

^+ V1933 PROJECT UFO (A-F)
Project UFO is all about the super natural. Mainly being UFO's. In this six disk set it contains reports from all over the world of sightings of UFO's some even from over one-hundred years ago.

^+ V1939 CBM GAMES 1-10 (10)
On this games disk it contains: Kong, Kratecmp, krazykong and a kung-fu game, B1 Bomber, Bacfactur, Biggles and Blue Moon, Captured, Cauldron, Cave Fight and a classic game called Clowns, Dandy, Dan-Dare, Darkstar and Dark Towers, Eagles, Eagle-Nest, Erik The Viking and Explorer, Firelord, Flintstones, Flash Gordon and Frontline, Hacker 2, Hawkeye, Hellgate and Hercules, Ice Hockey, Impossible Misson 2, and Indina Jones 3, Jacknipp, Jetpac, JollyRoger and Judge Dread, Aliens, Abadon, Acell and Accoaces. (10 Disks)

^+ V1949 MORE HD INSTALLERS
This disk contains the latest installers for the following games: ABASE, Arnie 2, ATR, Bump 'n' Burn, Naughty-ones, Rise of the Robots, Sensible World of Soccer, Shadow Fighters, Lion King, MKII_PAFIX, Parasol Stars, Rock'n'Roll, Skimarks 2, Skeleton Krew, Super Stardust, SoftB3, Trolls and Uridium 2.

^+ V1950 ART OF ILLUSION
It includes a wide range of illusions ranging from paralell lines to pictures where you can see two people in them. If you buy the registered version from the author you can even make and display your own illusions.

^+ V1951 DR WHO ANNIVERSARY (5)
Dr Who's 30th Anniversary. It covers most of the episodes and gives you a very detailed description of the series. It starts off with the theme tune to Dr Who which is quite good, it then comes up with an excellent menu system which is very easy to use. On the menu there are at least twenty subjects you can choose from, the only down side of it is that you have keep changing disks.

^+ V1956 STAR TREK GUIDE (A-F)
Consists of six disks and the only way you can run it is if you have a hard drive. There are loads of pictures for you to look at, ranging from the ship to the chracters. The guide is mainly based on scripts from the play for you to read with different storys to keep you enterained.

^+ V1962 AMIGA CDROM GUIDE
This CDRom Guide has many options to select from. It names nearly all the big PD companys around at present and all the cd's they have produced. It contains names, addresses and telephone numbers for the company's with is quite usefull. If you want an insight to Amiga cd's this is the catalog to get.

^+ V1963 VIRUS WORKSHOP V5.1
This version of Virus Workshop is as good as any of the others or even better. You can check every single file on there own or all together. If it finds a virus it will tell you what it is and exactly what to do to gat rid of it. This is probably the best version of Virus Workshop so far and well worth buying.

^+ V1964 COLOUR WORKBENCH
Allows you to basically change your workbench screen to purple or whatever colour you fancy. It also changes the font from the usual workbench one to one that is really small. There are icons which allow you to change the one's you already use to some they have. They have also included some backdrops for you to use.

^+ V1965 BALLS
Balls is yet another lottery predictor program. It is actually quite good apart from the £5 fee if you want to get the registered version. It can predict random numbers or numbers from pre-entered numbers of upto 72 weeks earlier. A well presented lottery predictor, if your into all the lottery hype get this.

^+ V1968 STAR TREK BACKGROUNDS
Heres some new backgrounds for workbench all based around the Star trek T:N:G series.

^* V1969 AQUARIUM SIMULATOR
3d Aquarium Simulator (uses MUI2.0). check it out.

LATEST GAMES IN

^+ 4463 C64-BOULDERDASH
Conversion of the classic commodore C64 game

^^ 4464 BREAKING BRICKS AGA
Great AGA game in the tradition of Breakout

^+ 4465 CHAPIONSHIP MANAGER EDITOR v2.4
An editor for Champion Ship manager

^+ 4466 PACKMAN AGA
Packman clone with lots of extra features.

^+ 4467 JOUSTER 3
A descent Joust clone with extras

^+ 4468 LEMMINGS 2 TO HD
patch to install your lemmings 2 to a hard drive.

^+ 4469 CRITICAL HIT
This is a table top stratergy role playing game

^+ 4470 PANIC SOCIETY v1.1
Multi-level grapgical puzzle adventre game

^+ 4471 JOUSTER 3
A descent Joust clone with extras

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CODE REFERENCES
^+ Works on all machines.
^* Requires Workbench 2.0 or above
^^ Requires Workbench 3.0 or above

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CU AMIGA SYSTEMS

Your essential guide to Amiga gaming

Reviewed:

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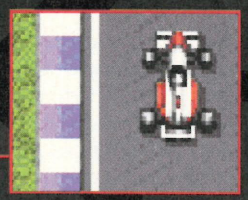
Learn to approach a runway without losing a wing or severely injuring all your passengers

Hollywood Hustler

Foul language, ample-chested women, and as much alcohol as you can possibly guzzle down

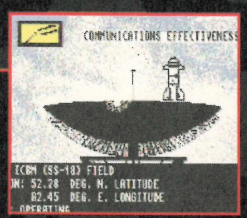


Turbo Trax

Arcane finally decide to release a challenger for the likes of Overdrive and Roadkill. Who will reign as champion?

Club and Country

Another football game on the market willing to tackle Player Manager 2 and even Championship Manager 2!



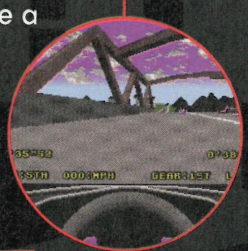
Budgets

Two cheap strategy games on offer this month, courtesy of CDS and Guildhall Leisure

Previews

Odyssey

A strangely titled game full of mystical excitement with a blend of mythical magic... or something



Leading Lap

Kellion Software's latest racer goes into the garage for a full service. Is it a faulty alternator or the battery? Take a look under the System bonnet

Virtual Karting

Small, low powered, dinky cars make their way onto the Amiga, thanks to OTM. Oh yes, thanks a lot

By Tina Hackett

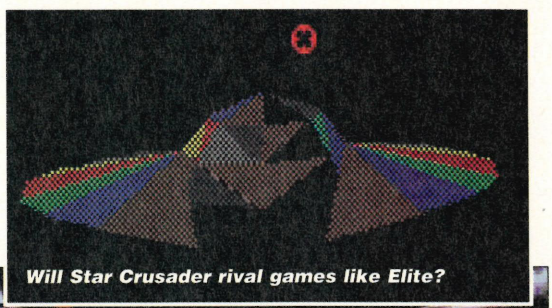
Star Crusader update

The release of Gametek's space flight simulator, Star Crusader, is imminent. Graphics are looking pretty smooth and it has fully texture mapped ships and 'state-of-the-art' 3D technology.

From the playable demo we've just looked at, there will be some stunning different views to choose from including external shots to a torpedo camera which lets you tail your torpedo as it is launched towards its target.

Control is via the keyboard and the interface is fully configurable which will make gameplay easy to execute. There will also be an extensive mission replay system which will allow you to rewind the action as well.

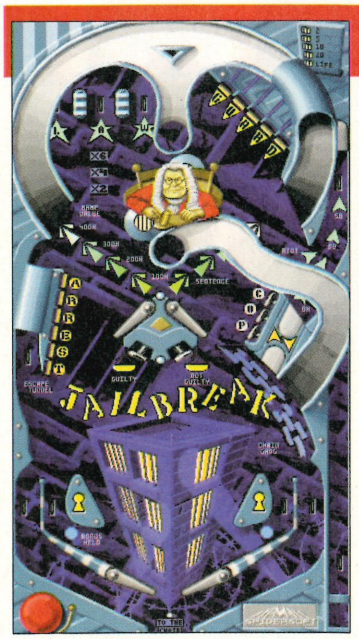
Star Crusader will be available for both the Amiga and CD32 in October priced at £29.99.



Will Star Crusader rival games like Elite?

Different views will make it graphically appealing

Manic Pinball



Pinball Mania continues the series of 21st Centuries high-quality pinball sims

21st Century are pledging their support to the new Amiga machine by releasing their latest title, Pinball Mania, for the A1200 and A4000T. Developed by the Spidersoft development team, it will contain four new tables, each with a new theme. Tarantula, as you'd expect, contains all sorts of horrid things like locusts and poisons. Jailbreak has an unforgiving judge who likes to dish out life sentences, Kick-Off aims to create all the atmosphere of a football match, and lastly there will be Casino, a miniature version of the real thing.

The table size will be increased, multi-ball added, and four flippers on every table will provide extra challenge. A UK release date of 25 October has been set.

All the tables will have different themes and top notch graphics

Stone-age computers

We had a conversation in the office about the many different computers there have been over the years, the ones that have just faded away, a mere recollection in the minds of gamers. So with this in mind, System hope to put together a feature along these lines. However, there is just one problem – we can't actually find any of this old hardware. So any readers out there who can remember these old machines, please send in your thoughts on the machines and even the games you could play on them. Even better – if you still have them, why not send in a photograph too.

Where are they now?...

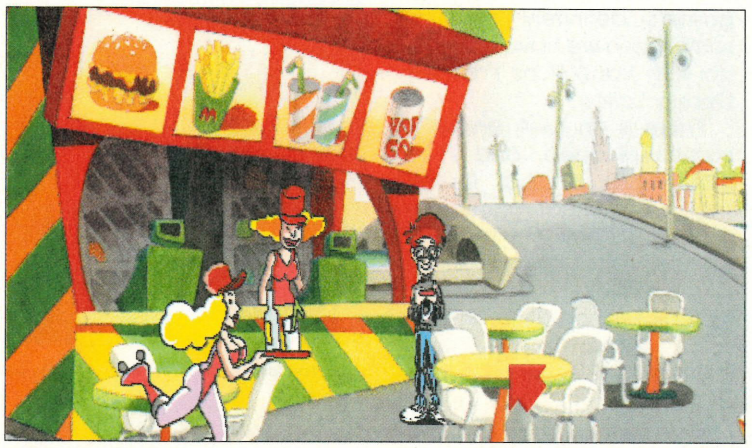
Remember some of our previews from dim and distant months, and now wondering what ever happened to certain games? We didn't lie – they just didn't come out. Sorry.

Pizza Tycoon – unfortunately, this intriguing looking business sim just isn't coming out on the Amiga. The game would only work on certain machines and MicroProse believed it wouldn't be worth bringing out. Distribution deals with magazines were considered but nothing as yet.

Pussies Galore – I don't think it is any great loss to the games community that this won't see the light of day. A rather cheesy looking platformer to say the least.

The Adrenalin(e) Factor – Mirage's rather good looking cyberpunk blast-'em-up also now looks unlikely to come out on the CD32. The same goes for their Rise of the Robots 2 release.

Big Red Adventure – rumour has it that Core Design's brilliant looking Russian adventure is unlikely to see the light of day on the Amiga. A great shame as this looked rather good.



Don't be disheartened by this, as there are still releases in the pipeline and we'll be attending next month's European Computer Trade Show to bring you bang up to date with all that's happening on the Amiga games scene.

The one and only

Things started to look pretty bleak for Amiga magazines when Emap's Amiga games title was put 'on hold.' However, only a month later, publishers Maverick must have decided Emap had made a hasty decision and have relaunched The One, which is a positive confidence boost to the market. They've decided to keep the magazine's unique style.

Oink, Oink

Sounding like a blatantly sexist title, 'Karate Babes' is going to do little for the image of games for both sexes. It comes complete with atrocious storyline which is a shame because the first Amiga game to use full-screen, 256 colour, Full Motion Video graphics, and the developers, Creative Edge Software, claim: "The graphics on this will make you feel like you are watching TV on your Amiga!"

The game uses the talents of people trained in martial arts who have been digitised. As the character moves, so do the backgrounds and they update accordingly. The game is divided into two parts – one is the fighting section, the other is an interactive movie which develops according to the choices you make.

Karate Babes also makes the plot an important part of the game (joy) and goes along the lines of: A new competitor called 'Karate Babe' wins the worldwide martial arts tournament, taking the title off the two-time winner. As a result, the defeated competitor loses his corporate sponsor, his girlfriend, and a role in a movie. He claims the victory was a fluke and demands a rematch. She refuses, and as a last attempt to force a rematch, he kidnaps Karate Babe's sister. Karate Babe must find her sister and defend herself against the kidnappers.

Creative Edge Software have some other titles on the way and among these is Bikini Karate Babes which contains digitised women in bikinis fighting. Nothing like these frustrated programmers, eh?

Ready for take off!

The eagerly awaited Flight of the Amazon Queen from Time Warner is finally here. Set in 1949 it is a parody of all the popular '40's adevnture serials.

The plot follows the exploits of Joe King, a pilot whose mission is to stop the evil Dr Frank Einstein, rescue the Amazons and win over the beautiful princess. (Aah).

The release date has been set for the 25th September and we'll be bringing you a full review next issue.

Flight of the Amazon Queen due to arrive next month

Inherit the earth

Life's unfair at times. There is a brilliant looking adventure game which you can find on Aminet called Erben der Erde. As you can see, it is German and this is the problem. It's in the hands of American company New World Computing and as yet it is undecided whether or not there will be an English version. We certainly hope so because the game's definitely not the same when we have to make do with translations from our Deputy Editor.

There is an AGA and ECS version planned, and it all looks rather unusual. Rather than your usual adventure stuff, you control a team of animals and graphically it looks stunning, with some incredibly smooth scrolling.

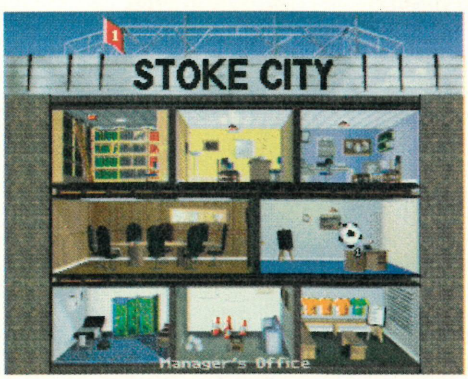
So keep your fingers crossed for this one.

As you can see it is in German. Looks good though.

SYSTEM

Top slots

We recommend the best games from the past few months



Player Manager 2 – if you enjoyed On the Ball's graphics and Championship Manager's depth and gameplay, this is undoubtedly the definitive management sim. If you want a serious statistical football game with plenty of thrills, then Player Manager 2 comes top of the list.

Gloom – the graphics are the best yet for games of this genre. Gloom is completely packed with smooth graphics, a huge challenge and, most of all, action and excitement. It's certainly the best attempt yet, although with similar efforts only weeks away from completion, only time will tell which one will rise above the rest.

Colonization – Colonization is a very in-depth strategy game and does take a while to get into. Once there, though, it's a thoroughly absorbing title that has been intelligently written. There is more action than you might think for a turn-based game and it continually engages the player in planning their next move. For the more cerebral gamesplayer, this comes highly recommended.

Sensible Golf –it's certainly a fantastic little arcade game with many months of entertainment. If you can manage to stay calm during the frustrating parts, you'll find it very enjoyable – especially with four players.

Timekeepers – there's no doubt that this is Vulcan's best release so far, with an engaging game system that is easy to use and rewarding when your plans are successful and your troops drop through the exit one by one. At £12.99, Timekeepers offers good value for money and packs a healthy amount of playability.

EPIC MARKETING
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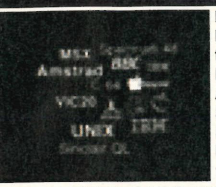

Emulators Unlimited contains Software emulation tools for the Amiga & PC. Spread over the two platforms are emulators for: Apple, BBC, Commodore 64, Commodore VIC20, Amstrad CPC, Apple Mac, Gameboy, Atari ST, MSX, Apple200, Atari 800, Atari1040ste, Sinclair QL, Unix and more. Also features hundreds of games, tools and demos for use with most of the emulators.

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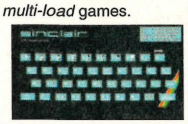

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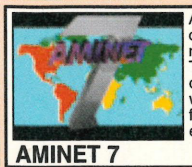

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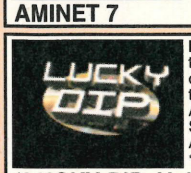

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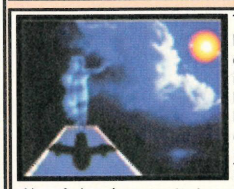

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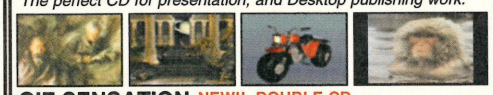

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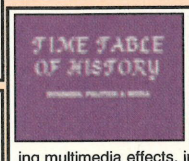

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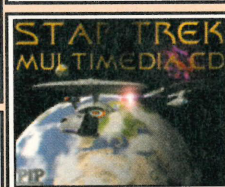

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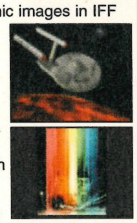

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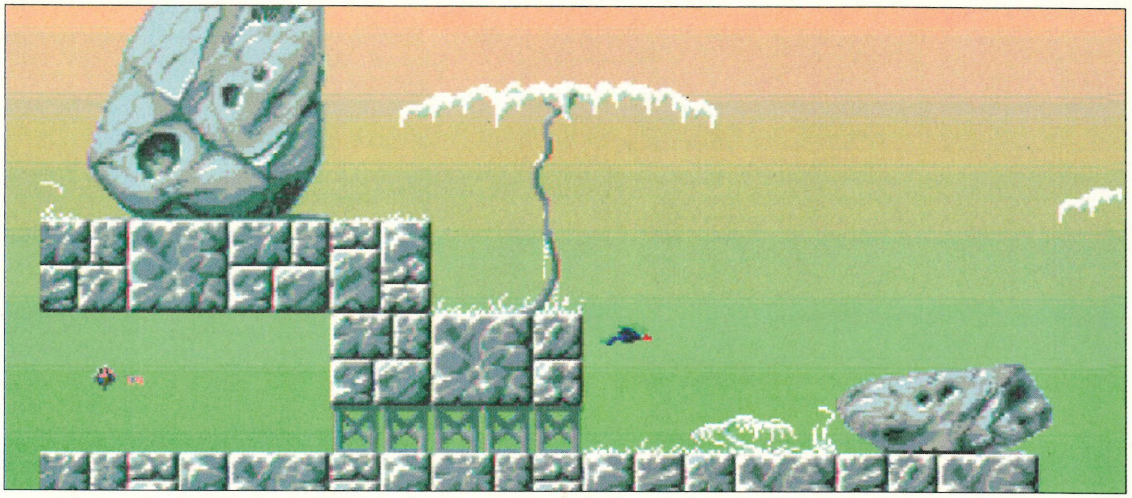


They key on the left will come in very useful for opening doors, especially the ones that lead to crystals

Audiogenic are not especially known for their contributions to the platform genre, being more sports-like – especially with releases like Graham Gooch's Cricket and Wembley International Soccer, and soon to be Imran Kahn's Cricket all appearing, not to mention a number of other successful games.

Audiogenic are certainly not letting themselves slide down that pit where other companies have recently been disappearing to – although, one of their latest products, Bubble and Squeak 2, is on hold.

However, one title is certain to go ahead, and it goes by the name of Odyssey – a platform game which has quietly possessed many morphing capabilities. It's a side-on platform game which could deliver a different perspective to the already mountains of usual platformers out there. Let's see.

The idea behind Odyssey is to collect various crystals from several different islands to complete the game. On the way through, you'll encounter a number of creatures trying to prevent you from doing so. With a large number of perplexing puzzles that must be solved to access other areas, Odyssey is looking a lot like a puzzling platformer – like Delphine Software's Flashback.

During your quest you will encounter a number of various monsters such as vultures, and an army of small people armed with huge swords which you must overcome to collect the crystals and proceed further. You must fight them while losing as little energy as possible, although what makes Odyssey good to play is the fact that when you do lose a serious amount of energy, you don't have to trundle around over-cautiously. Instead, standing still for a good 10 seconds will get your breath back – replenishing your energy and helping you get past the tricky parts.

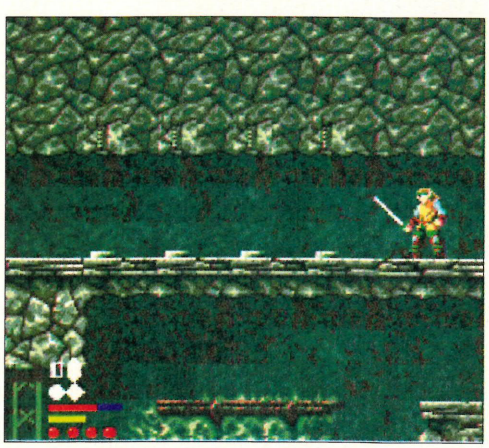
One of the hardest parts of Odyssey is negotiating the bigger rocks. You can take a swipe at them

Morphing mania

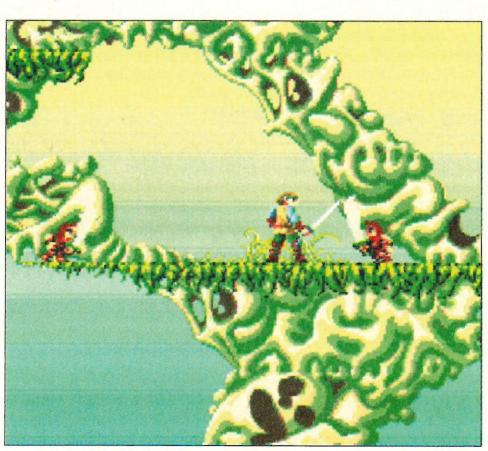
When you acquire the morphing power, it is possible to morph into a number of objects. For instance, you can morph into a rock to smash smaller rocks by falling from a great height and then rolling through tiny gaps. This is essential for reaching the keys which will open the doors to the crystals.

You can also morph into a bird and fly high above the lower platforms which you wouldn't be able to reach if you were using the hero without the special morphing powers. The last morph is a grasshopper, which obviously allows you to jump great distances to reach hidden platforms you normally wouldn't have seen.

The morphing characteristic adds a lot to the originality of Odyssey, making it something different from the bog-standard type of platform game around today. The idea of using different characters to solve different puzzles adds a lot to the depth and challenge tremendously.

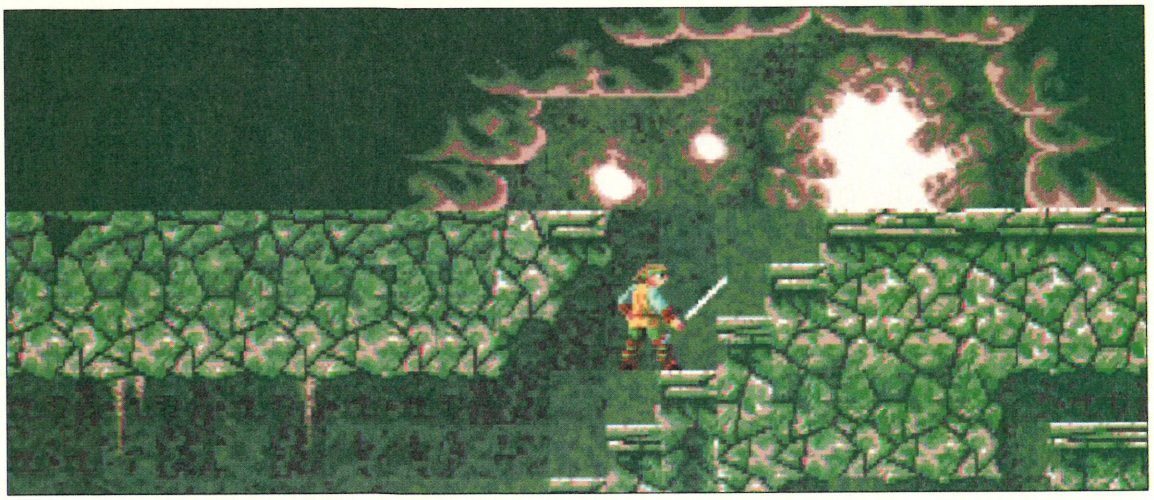


Pressing the buttons activates various traps and doors which must be negotiated



The small rock people will do their best to prevent you from collecting the crystal

Although, obviously, you can't hear them, the sound effects are very realistic indeed



The tunnel leads to the outside bit where you will encounter even more monsters

with your sword which will set them rolling, but you have to be careful because you may end up trapped behind it or it may block your path. These puzzles will no doubt have even the most experienced games player tearing their hair out.

What people may fail to realise, which I'd better explain, is the fact that Odyssey isn't just a game completed by running from left to right, killing monsters and picking up the crystals at the end. You have to negotiate all the puzzles which, believe me, are quite taxing. They involve moving rocks onto various buttons, directing shooting arrows towards pressure zones, and even morphing into different, smaller creatures to squeeze through tiny gaps which are only accessible to the smallest of insects.

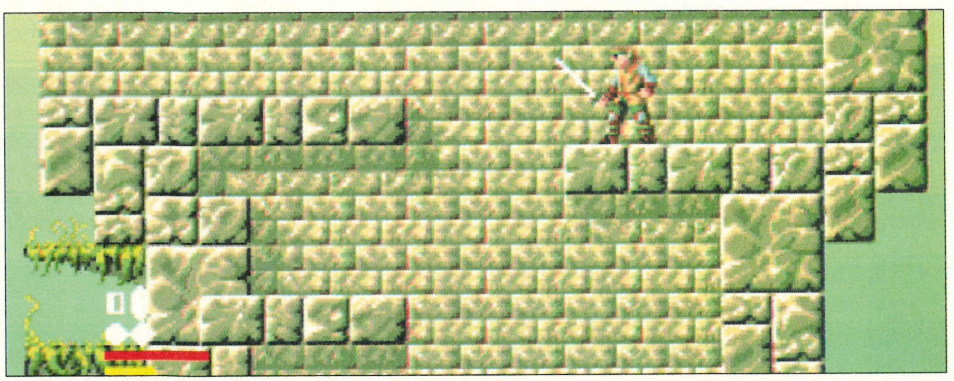
There are several large islands to battle through, accompanied by truly fantastic backdrops. At the beginning, when you select an island, a human hand appears as a pointer – using very impressive method animation with the dark black shadow, which makes it smoother than a baby's bottom. The morphing sequences are also animated in this way – proving what a graphical feast it will be when it finally hits the shops.

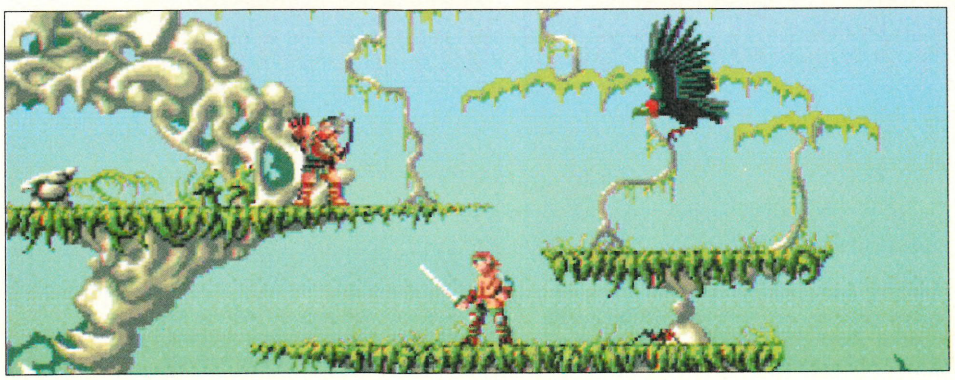
Odyssey

By Andy Maddock

> ‘With a large number of **perplexing puzzles** that must be solved to **access other areas**, Odyssey is looking a lot like a puzzling platformer’

The graphics and animation are both looking very good. Let's hope we see more of them in the finished version





There is a stiff amount of opposition out there ready to crush your high hopes

Final word

Overall, Odyssey is looking very complete, especially graphically and gameplay wise. The game is already running very smoothly, with no noticeable glitches standing in its way.

When it's finally released I can almost certainly see it being a huge success. Audiogenic may have latched themselves on to a winner. Keep an eye out for a full review very soon.

SYSTEM
review

Club and Country

All your current information is displayed on the right, and your status screen is at the bottom, in picture format

GRAPHICS 74%
SOUND 72%
GAMEPLAY 79%
OVERALL 78%

PUBLISHER
Leisuresoft UK

DEVELOPER
Boms Computing

PRICE
£19.99

DISKS
2

HD INSTALL
Yes

SUPPORTS
All Amigas

Another football game arrives as we watch another season get under way. The winter months are fast coming upon us and could be the perfect time to sit out the first rounds of the Auto Windscreen Shield and head for managing success on the Amiga.

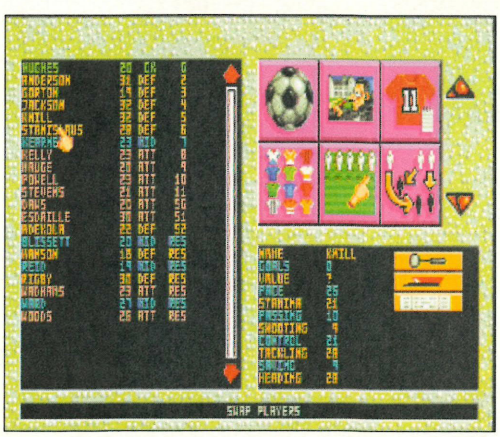
This time, a relatively large company who are renowned for distributing PC and Amiga peripherals are invited to try their hand at the Amiga games scene. Leisuresoft UK intend to make a big impact on the gaming front, and a football game could be just what it takes.

Football games are undoubtedly the Amiga's strong point, and have brought in more cash than any other genre. All the all-time greats have appeared on the Amiga and incidentally, most of them never made successful conversions onto the PC or any console. Sensible Soccer, Kick Off, Player Manager, Goal and Man Utd – Premier Champions are just a selection who owe their huge success to the Amiga.

Club and Country is one of the few football management games that offers jobs on club and international level. Sensible Software had aspirations to the idea but it was never given the time of day. After 10 seasons of non-stop promotions, relegations and cup exits, the last thing you want to do is retire. Club and Country gives you the option to manage the national team when your success becomes too much for the rest of the pack.

At the beginning of Club and Country, you are given a list of clubs to take on in division three. They all offer competitive salaries and a required league placing needs to be achieved for the forthcoming season. This leaves you with a defined target to achieve – failure to do so means sacking will be imminent.

Club and Country has an easy-to-use icon system which allows you to view all the statistics within seconds without having to plough through hundreds of menus. The icons are located on the right side of the screen, with the information displayed on the left, and your current status is displayed at



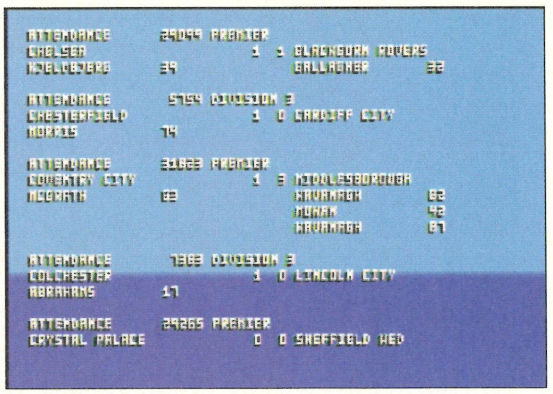
The squad select screen displays the player's ages, position and shirt number. Where are their stats?

The match sequences don't reflect the depth of the game. Also, the player's performance is displayed confusingly over the player's name

Pressing the mouse during the game will bring up a screen whereby you can change your team line-up

Cartoon to cleavage

All the usual options are included – transfers, stadium development, physiotherapy and tactical editors. The game is shown in cartoon form, which is a real shame as the amount of options and realism within the actual management is spoilt and lost through the showing of these cartoon pictures. Showing a heavily cleavaged nurse as a physio, especially sporting a rather plastic uniform, is a bit out of hand as today's game is no longer purely a man's.



After you have finished your match, all the results will come up in a vidiprinter-like style

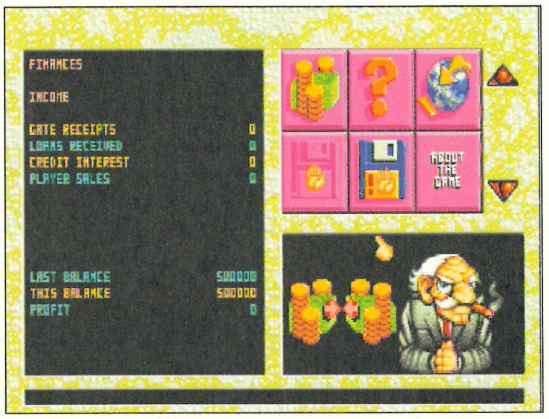
Country

Reviewed by Andy Maddock

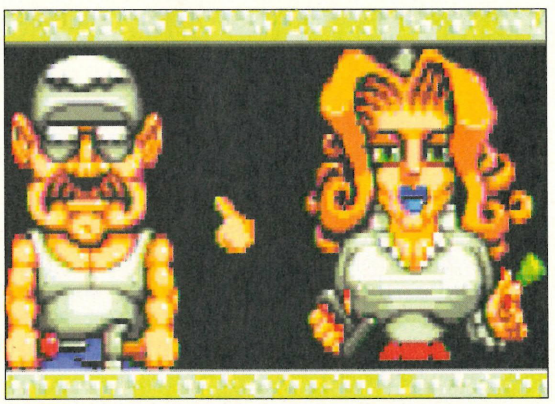
the foot of the screen as a picture. You begin with a small house, small car, and a generally unappealing appearance. As you progress through the divisions picking up trophies and promotions, more money will come in, thus enabling you to afford a better life. So the actual objective of the game isn't to be the best team in the world in a completely fictional way, but to earn enough money to live on and with luck, progressing and enjoying the higher life of football management.

The actual match sequences are immensely lacking in quality – there is no animated, graphical action, just a short and brief description on injuries and bookings, so you can't acquire a true estimation of your team's ability. You can make substitutions and swap players around during the match, but you can't alter the way your team plays.

Although these comments seem harsh in some respects, they are purely cosmetic and could have been tidied up. The depth and realism is present but simply overshadowed by the cartoon pictures. Another problem is the research. At first glance it looks like all the players' data is present and correct because Dennis Bergkamp is in Arsenal's line-up. However, it seems the rest of the squads haven't been touched. There's no sign of an editor either, so it looks like you're stuck with them – unfortunately.



The finance screen gives you an idea of your weekly income and expenditure



The sexist pictures come into effect again. The male builder is the one who does the work, and the female is the ticket girl

> Club and Country is one of **the few** football management games that **offers jobs** on club and international basis

Final word

Compared to the likes of Player Manager 2 and On The Ball, Club and Country doesn't even get a look in. The football game industry is becoming increasingly popular once again and it's certainly not going to be an easy task for anyone to better the management games that are dominating today's market. It isn't a bad effort, but one which will linger around the bottom of the league, staring relegation in the face for a few seasons. It all boils down to lack of presentation. If you already have Player Manager 2 and On The Ball, Club and Country wouldn't be a bad purchase. If you're that football mad, you'll probably buy it anyway!

Graphics and presentation aren't that impressive

Approach Trainer aims to provide ultimate realism

Approach Trainer

Reviewed by Tina Hackett

GRAPHICS 50%

SOUND 75%

GAMEPLAY 71%

OVERALL 72%

PUBLISHER
Thalion

DEVELOPER
Rainer Bopf

PRICE
£29.99

DISKS
TBA

HD INSTALL
No

SUPPORTS
All Amigas 1Mb+

Flight sims usually fall into two main categories. There's either the action-packed dogfight types such as Reach for the Skies and F19 Stealth Fighter, where you take to the skies and aim to obliterate the enemy, or there's the other, the *serious* kind that accurately recreate the modern-day flying experience.

Those in this category (of which there are few – the only ones that spring to mind are A320 Airbus and Proflight) are the ones that can seem very bland to the uninitiated, but for those who take the trouble to read the hefty manuals and study the flight charts, they are rewarded with a very realistic simulation of the real thing.

Anyway, falling into this latter category is Thalion's latest offering, Approach Trainer, the next one along in the Airbus A320 series. Made by the same Rainer Bopf which created its predecessors, Approach Trainer aims to simulate the approach and landing of a plane. Described as a simulation of a simulator, it allows the player to practice the procedures needed to land a plane at one of Europe's 58 most important airports.

The first thing you need to know is that although it is a supplement to Airbus A320, you don't need the previous game to play it and the trainer program does not assume that you are familiar with the series. So if you've never played before don't worry – you can learn from scratch (and have to read all the manual – joy!).

Starting with the training mode you are given electronic aids to help get through the procedures step by step, and as you progress you can turn off each feature one by one. You can also choose the airport, the weather, and whether you tackle a long or short approach. It is also possible to alternate between day and night flights.

When more experienced, you can try the Scoring Mode where the computer randomly generates a situation and then records the points achieved in a log book. And when you're feeling really confident, try testing your skills against an opponent, taking alternative turns under the same conditions.

> "If you want a game you can get straight into then it's **not for you**"

Although graphics aren't that impressive, attention to detail has been made such as improved PAPI lighting, airfield detail, and improved 'Glass cockpit' layout. For ultra-realism, accurate ILS charts have been included too.

This is one of the very few games that supports an analogue joystick. In case you haven't got one and want to use a PC joystick instead, at the back of the manual there are instructions on how to make your own Interface-Converter to use a PC analogue joystick – so get your soldering iron ready.

Final word

Like most flight sims it is accompanied by a dauntingly thick manual – so needless to say, if you want a game you can get straight into then it's not for you. However, patience pays dividends and if you take the time to plough through, you'll find a very rewarding and very comprehensive title. The graphics are rather grim, but this shouldn't bother true sim fans too much.

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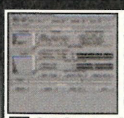

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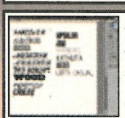

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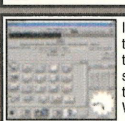

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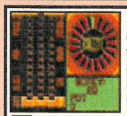

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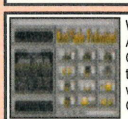

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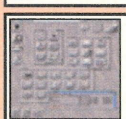

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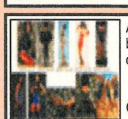

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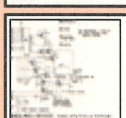

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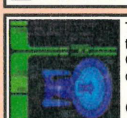

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Kompart return to grace the Amiga screens once again. After many months of pure speculation, Turbo Trax has finally arrived – in Ferrari-like fashion too.

Kompart, responsible for the abundance of Amiga releases during these last few months, are adding to their already well-developed collection a challenger for the likes of Overdrive and Roadkill. These two weren't particularly successful compared to the likes of the late '80's Nitro. This was one of the few top-down racing games that packed pure challenge and action. The idea was to race against a series of opponents in various cars. A whole host of tracks were included making this one of the most pleasing and satisfying games of all time.

During the early '90s, Supercars was introduced on the Atari format, later making its way across to the Amiga. This was viewed top-down just like Nitro, but where Nitro failed in terms of variety, Supercars filled the spot almost too perfectly. Featuring an option to buy more cars and progress onto later tracks, Supercars' success was inevitable. What made Supercars incredibly popular was the fact it offered a different perspective. The idea of layered tracks was welcomed with open arms by games players everywhere.

After the recent releases of Roadkill and Overdrive, Turbo Trax is the latest top-down racing game. After being in the pre-production phase for months, will it finally pass its driving test?

There are three modes of play – Arcade, Time Trials, and Practice. The arcade mode is basically to beat five other computer opponents to cross the line first, picking up some cash to spend on your car to increase its handling and power. After you complete a race, you are given a number of items to buy to increase your car's capabilities. You can buy five types of engine, steering wheel, fuel and tyres. The better the component the more expensive it'll be.

In the arcade mode, the computer opponents are especially hard and the car in pole position always seems to be half way round the course before you've even turned the first corner. It'll take an enormous amount of practice to enable you to come first, or even second.

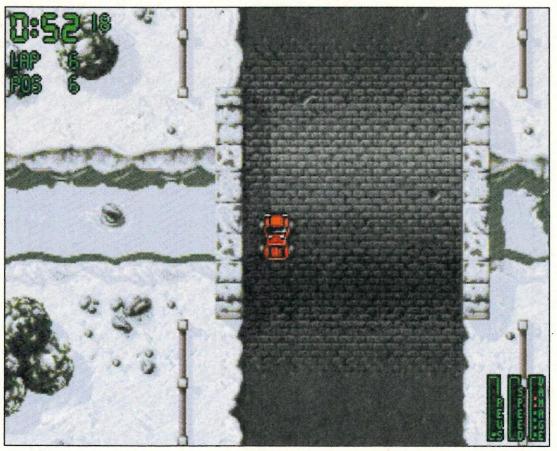
To slow you down, various obstacles are placed on the tracks – the oil is undoubtedly the worst. Having said that, it's not as frustrating as you can imagine. On most racing games, sliding on oil will send you careering into the crash barriers, almost certainly putting you out of contention for first place. However on Turbo Trax, the frustration factor is set just about right. If you do happen to be in an unavoidable position resulting in skidding over an oil leak, the worst that can happen is a simple 360 degree spin followed by a loss in speed. This enables the opponents to gain a little, but not so much that it ruins the entire race. The

Comparing cars

There have been a significant number of top-down racing games released recently, namely Roadkill, Overdrive and Micro Machines. In the past we have seen the likes of Super Sprint, Nitro and Indy Heat. Oh, alright, so Indy Heat wasn't specifically top-down but more of a mid-slanty top view that worked surprisingly well.

These are the only commercial releases I can think of. Most of the top-down racers emerge from Public Domain, and some of the decent PD racers include Moose Drive and Road To Hell.

Don't forget to brake for the pedestrian crossing. Oh, and don't run any grannies over either!



Driving over the bridge in the snow. It's certainly not a wise idea to practice handbrake turns now!

The desert track is the perfect track for a bit of fun with plenty of dunes and jumps

Turbo Trax

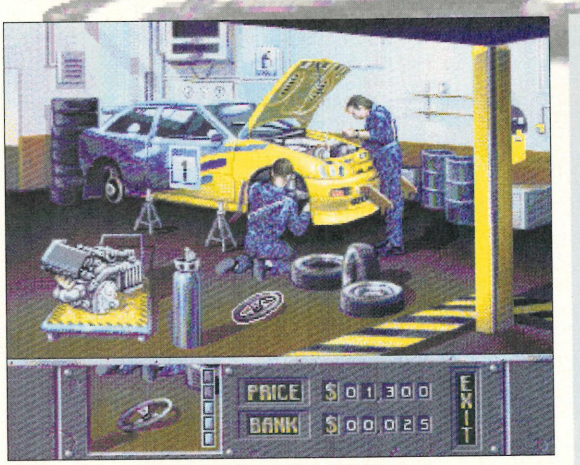
Reviewed by Andy Maddock

‘the car in pole position always seems to be half way round the course before you’ve even turned the first corner. It’ll take an enormous amount of practice to enable you to come first, or even second’

other mode of play is Practice, whereby you can select any course, any car, and can get to know each course, so when you come to take on the arcade mode you’ll have an idea of the corners and where and when to brake etc. The last mode is Time Trials whereby you have to complete the lap in the fastest time which can then be saved to disk for future reference.

To help you in your quest for loads of cash and a decent reputation, there are all sorts of helping hands. You can pick up spanners which reduce your damage, money to give you something to enhance your car, and turbos which will give you that extra speed – maybe enough to carry you across the line in first place. There are three types ➤

Crossing the finish line in first place is probably the hardest task within Turbo Trax



You can purchase components to improve your car and achieve a better position in the next race

Gearbox problems

Every car I have known has had problems with it in one way or another. If it's not the gearbox, you'll probably have left your keys inside. It's funny the way all the problems seem to occur just after the two month warranty has expired. Oh well, thankfully none of these problems appear in Turbo Trax.

Although every car featured in Turbo Trax is extremely high powered, you wouldn't really expect the type of acceleration you are presented with. The gear changes are noticeable, unlike many other racers, and the pitch of the engine noise is also heard. Most games seem as if they are controlled in first gear all the time, and a high pitched roaring noise becomes extremely annoying.

However, the acceleration is lacking immensely. If you do happen to get hammered off the side of the track, the possibility of getting yourself going within seconds is very remote – as moving up to sixth gear seems to take a life time.

Although there is a variety of cars, there isn't any actual difference between them. For instance, you'd expect a formula one car to have a higher speed than an off-road truck.

You are also given a damage bar. This will inform you of how much damage your car has taken and how much it will take. If you happen to exceed this amount, you'll be thrusted back at the beginning again. You can damage your car in a number of ways, although trying to overtake is possibly the worst, so I suggest you try to avoid it – although not at pedestrian crossings. That always seems to inject a little excitement.

➤ of car which race on their own respective circuit. For instance, you won't find a Formula One tuned car racing on a dirt track. There are quite a few different styles of tracks, with around seven or eight mapped out differently. There are street, snow, dirt, and racing tracks which require various types of handling because of the conditions.

Before you take on a track, you can tune your car to suit the circuit. Obviously, if the next track to race is a slippery ice track, the idea is to spend money on handling and grip by purchasing the steering wheel and tyres. There is little point in purchasing a high-powered engine because you'll spend most of the time going far too fast and spinning out of control. You have to master the car-set-up screen before attempting a race or you will undoubtedly come nowhere.

The car sprites for top-down racing games are basically of a standard appearance. They are kept very simple because they have to be manipulated at every angle to make them smooth and fluent. Turbo Trax's sprites are simple, yet they work very effectively. There is no animation on the cars themselves because that would simply complicate the speed and definition.

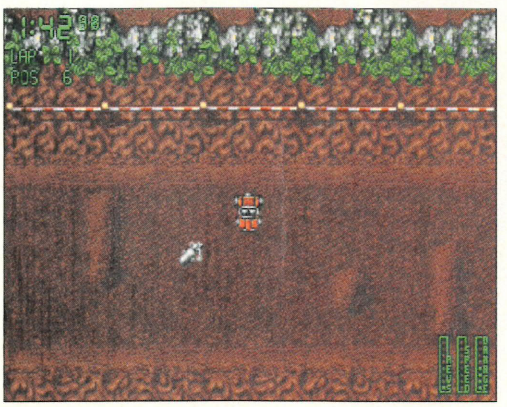
The tracks and backgrounds are good, making it pleasurable to play as well as being easy on the eye. There are different kinds of scenery to add enough variety to keep you playing for a while. There is a street track which is mapped out with cones – these must be negotiated along with the other five cars to complete the track. As Turbo Trax runs quite fast, it is difficult to see which bends and corners will be coming up. Memorising them won't work either because there are simply far too many of them to attempt. When you begin the arcade mode, a random one will be picked as well.

The computer opponents don't really give you much chance of catching them, never mind beating them. It will take many weeks of practice until you are good enough to challenge for first place.

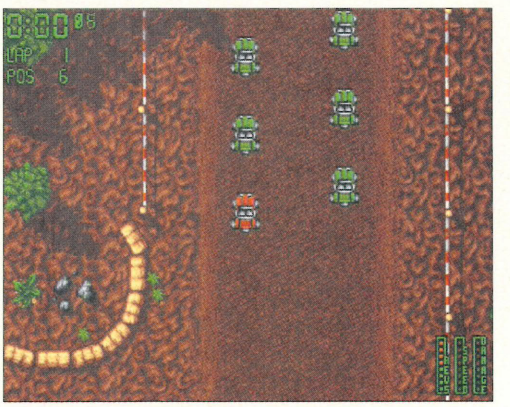
Finally, the sound effects are very realistic with engine noises and the screeching of brakes. These all add to the excitement and action – although, not that much.

Final word

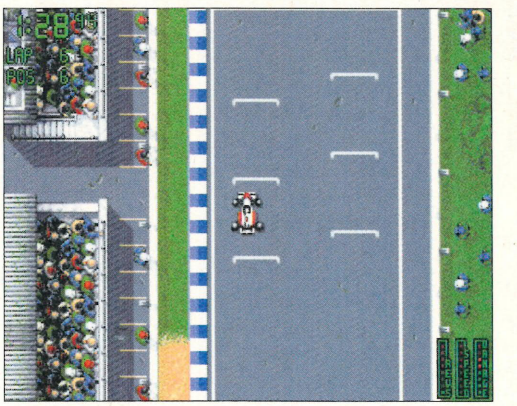
Overall, Turbo Trax is a fairly good game. It doesn't include anything special or mind-blowing, it's simply another top-down racing game – although the main point of the game is the fact it simply plays well and is quite enjoyable. The variety of tracks and cars gives it a longer lasting challenge as you have to adapt to each one. The graphics do their jobs adequately and it all adds up to a really playable game with many months of enjoyment.



Going over a turbo boost will give you that extra speed which is invaluable for keeping up with the rest of the pack



The starting grid is the best place to zoom into, at least, second place.



The Formula One set-up is far more involving than any other car/track combination

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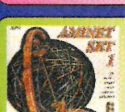
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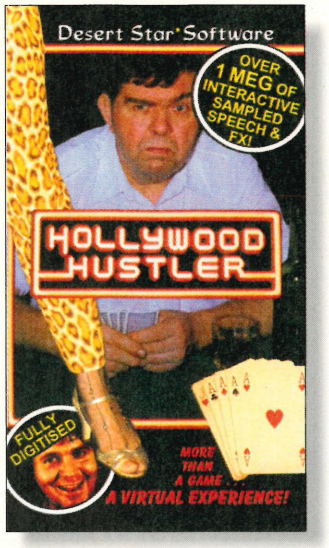

The tasteful box cover looking like a cheesy '70's porno

Hollywood Hustler

By Tina Hackett

Computer Poker is normally a genre reserved mainly for the PD pages or an excuse to show scantily clad bodies as in Strip Poker. But now new company, Desert Star Software, have taken the seedy underworld poker scene and incorporated it into a computer game. It looks like being a feminist's worst nightmare with gratuitous breast shots, fat old men farting, and it offers all other stereotypical traits of the gambler. Fortunately, it's all done tongue-in-cheek and the end product will probably be a combination of Rab C Nesbit and Leisure Suit Larry.

The story sets you as a bit of a loser, really. Well, to be kind, you've just been unlucky. You lose your job, your girlfriend leaves you, and your car gets repossessed, all in the same day. You are on the streets of Hollywood, alone, when you find yourself enticed into a dingy club and into a poker game.

You face three other rather dubious characters and can select the level of difficulty from Rookie, Average, or Hustler, depending on your skills. The rest is a straightforward Five Card Draw Poker game with all players placing their bets, and so on. Control is via the joystick and you play until you're broke.

The PR blurb accompanying the preview copy boasts over 1Mb of speech and FX, and so far farting(?), and a "Raise you five" uttered in an American accent by your opponents add to the seedy atmosphere.

The cinematic introduction tells the story – you are down on your luck, so you enter the club

> 'Gratuitous breast shots, fat **old men** farting and offering all other stereotypical traits of the gambler'

Two table options are available – this is the more decent of the two

Happy, you leave the club wealthier but not a whole let wiser

And unlike other games of this kind, Hollywood Hustler promises to make each game completely different, with all cards being dealt at random. Each hand remains known only to the player holding them, so the computer can't actually cheat. The opponents' thinking also varies each time so, for instance, they may or may not bluff, or may be more aggressive.

A cinematic intro will also be used to create the feel of the game, and depending on how well you play, you will get one of three endings.

It certainly looks different and rather entertaining. Even the game box continues the tongue-in-cheek style looking like a cheap '70's porn film, and with the green baize trim you could almost be there!

Grim

Hollywood Hustler has a cinematic style and tries to provide a little more to it than just the card game, hence the reason for the characters which are in keeping with the style.

Montana Slim is the chef from the diner next door to the club and as you can guess by his name, as well as enjoying 'broads', and gambling, he's also into his food and booze in a big way. The others are Joe, an ex-sixties guru who is now the manager of the Pussycat porno-theatre, and Chuck, a would-be movie star and a night clerk at the motel. And lastly, there is Jackie, also known as Miss Astrodate, a stripper from the exotic cabaret bar. All sounds lovely, doesn't it?

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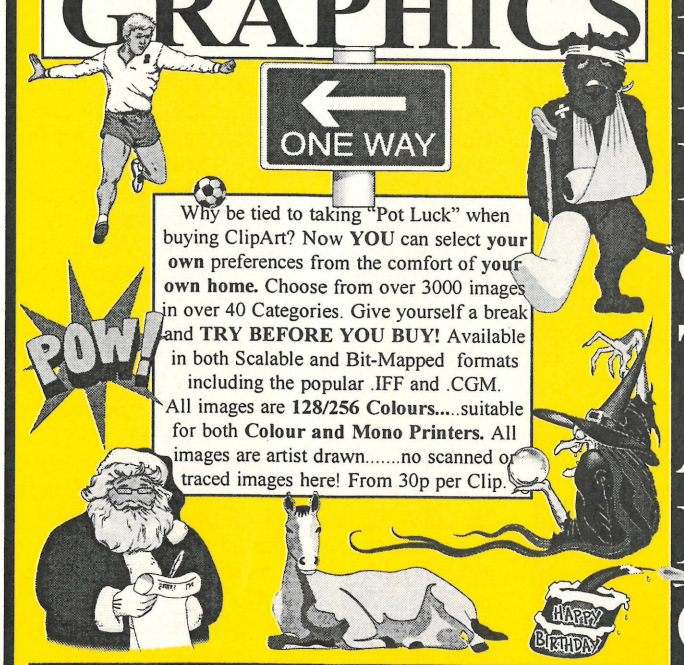

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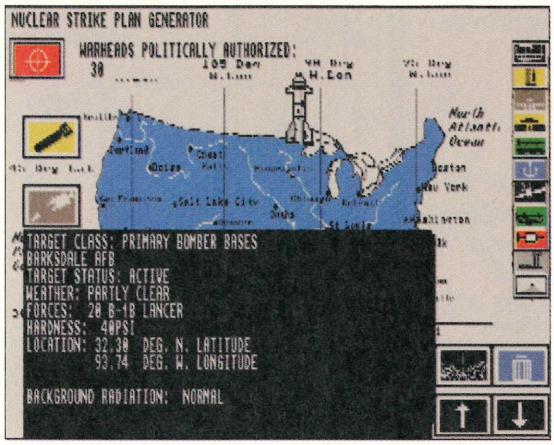
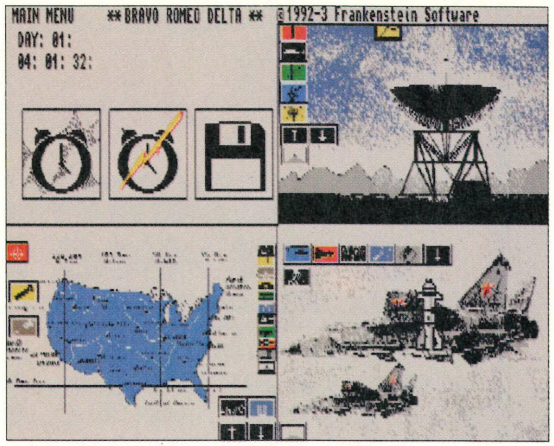


There are a number of ways to set up attacks. Using planes and submarines are just a few



From here you can access all kind of menus which will lead you to set up your campaign

Bravo Romeo Delta

Reviewed by Andy Maddock

PUBLISHER
Guildhall Leisure

DEVELOPER
CDS

PRICE
£9.99

DISKS
2

HD INSTALL
Yes

SUPPORTS
All Amigas

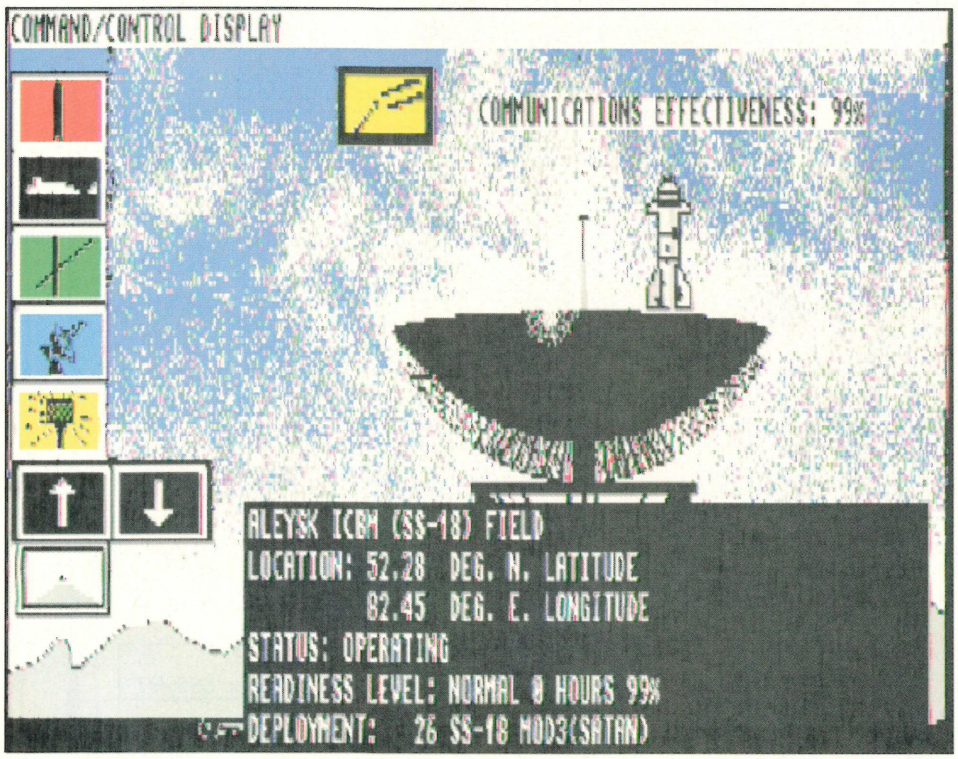
CDS are a company who are quite well known among many Amiga owners for their previous war/strategy games. Their other titles include Action Stations, Blitzkrieg and White Death. Bravo Romeo Delta, their brand new game, has just been released and it includes all kinds of new strategic elements that differ from the first attempts.

Guildhall Leisure are set to release this before winter, along with their second release, Subversion, and both of them will set you back a mere £9.99. However, the question is, will they include enough tactical depth to keep you going through the coming winter months?

The idea behind the game is to take complete control of the US strategic forces which include ICBMs, SLBMs, SSBNs and Bomber Bases. There are a series of nuclear warheads aimed for the US Air Bases, and your job is one of responsibility – to launch a limited attack to prevent the warheads reaching their designated targets.

The main menu screen is divided into quarters, and each one takes you to another screen of attack assessments or nuclear strike plans – covering a different part of the game. Not being a nuclear/war/strategy fan I wasn't really looking forward to ploughing through menu after menu just looking for a way to fire some weapons. However, after loading it up I was quite impressed with the depth within Bravo Delta Romeo.

From the command control display you can view your communication status and alter it



There's no doubt that the game was written by someone who has researched each part, studying it in great detail. They quite obviously know what they're talking about and seem to have achieved the right blend of strategy and tactics. The notorious problem that can occur with these strategy games is the fact that the programmer includes all sorts of nonsense that cannot be understood. Bravo Romeo Delta includes a manual that explains every part of the game. After a few minutes, you'll pick up all the strategy jargon and soon be processing attack waves.

I can fully understand if people turn their noses up at Bravo Romeo Delta – it's certainly not the most popular genre but it does appeal to a minority group which should be catered for.

Having said that, even the small minority may not be able to put up with the untidy and appalling graphics that are very difficult to see. Even the icons located on the left side of the screen are very blurred and have no graphical picture attached. You will have to check the manual a few times just to recap on which icon does what.

In terms of war and strategy, there are no other games that immediately spring to mind, so I think it's quite safe to say that Bravo Romeo Delta is the best of its genre – despite the odd graphical glitches here and there.

71%

SubVersion

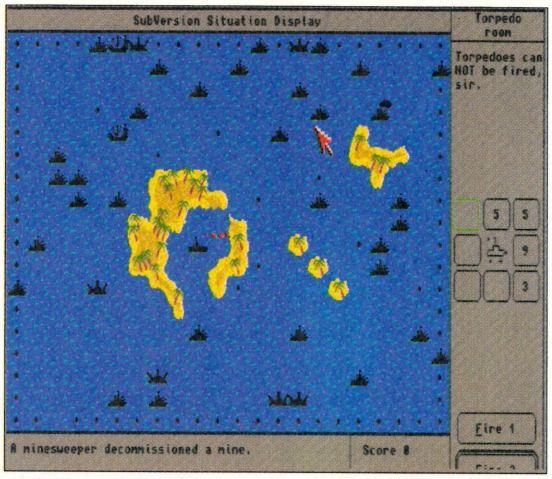
You are commander of the submarine 'Nautilus' and your mission objectives are to locate all enemy within the area and destroy them.

Subversion is the second release by Guildhall Leisure introducing the war/strategy approach, and is only slightly more arcadey than Bravo Romeo Delta. You are given a huge battlefield play area in the middle of the screen, and all the options are located around the edge of the screen. These range from firing torpedos to checking your status and looking for other subs in the vicinity.

The game is basically self-explanatory and a huge session with the manual isn't really required. All the menus and options are located at the top of the screen, making it very user-friendly. The only annoying factor that is bundled with the package is the code protection wheel. A series of numbers are presented to you and you must find the corresponding letters and match them with some more numbers on the reverse side. It would have been okay, but it takes a while before you finally work it out – especially with a case sensitive code wheel,

The main display in the centre of the screen displays areas of combat and locations of enemy ships, land and subs. Not only do you have to destroy enemy ships, but avoiding and destroying mines is pretty much a secondary mission objective.

The graphics are fairly simple, but there's more than enough depth and tactical gameplay – in fact, Subversion does become repetitive and boring after a while, because you happen to stumble upon the same attacks over and over again.



The map shows all the locations of then enemy. Make sure you choose a route that steers clear of mines

If you want a good, serious submarine simulation then I suggest you check out Sub War 2050. It has the same amount of tactics and gameplay as Subversion but the graphics stand out so much further. It's like an underwater flight sim and gives you an exciting role to play

As it stands, Subversion is an innovative idea with plenty of challenge to keep you going quite a while. If you can put up with the appalling graphics and the small minor gripe about the code wheel, then I can recommend Subversion only to submarine admirers.

68%

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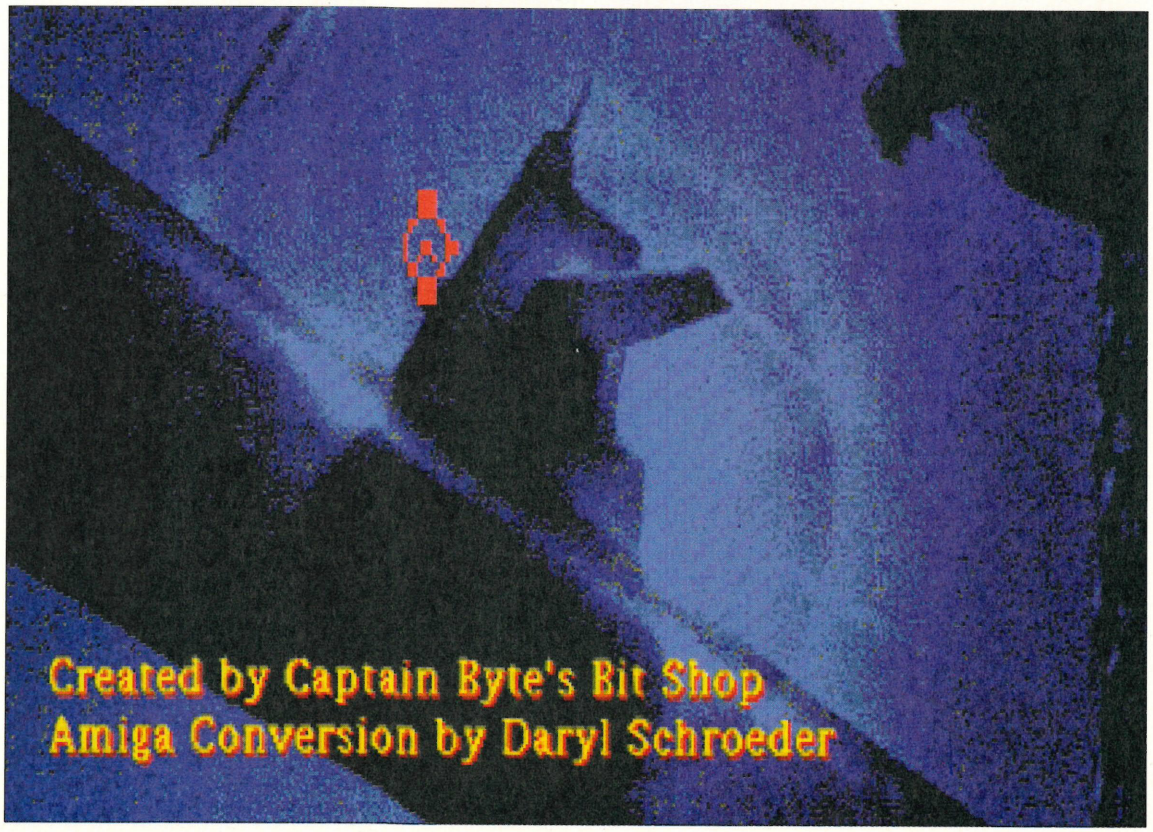
SUPPORTS
All Amigas



Although SubVersion contains some nice introduction screens, the game itself is certainly not of a professional standard

hints & tips

Jungle Strike

Stuck in this strategic blast? Try these level codes:

Return home	N7RL7JK3BPY
River raid	TG3TGDBR9C9
Training ground	96PBLHZJF4L
San Puloso city	VHJ94MC7JLN
Sub attack	RSMKVSPGC7X
Mountains	7CR94SPGC7V
Snow fortress	WPYV4F3BRG3
Night strike	XMCRLGFDY6G
End screen	LJ96YRWT7Y6

Zool

Level select: type GOLDFISH on the title screen, then F1 to F6 while playing!

Chaos Engine

If you still can't get anywhere in this game you're a bit sad really, but that's what we're for, eh? These codes will sort you out:

World 2 with infinite money	GVVCH5DMS7#N
World 3 with infinite money	V35O76X6S7WH
World 4 with infinite money	6UCDXU25S7V2

ATR (CD32)

Annoyed because you can't play those later tracks (like Space and Alien Planet) in two-player mode? Fret no more! All you have to do is reach them on one-player mode, lose a race, enter your name as ATR, then you can select them in two-player mode. Wahey!

Terminator 2

This game too hard for you? Skip over those levels by pausing the game, pressing F1 to F10, fire, then Esc.

Impossible Mission 2025

Top game! Top codes!

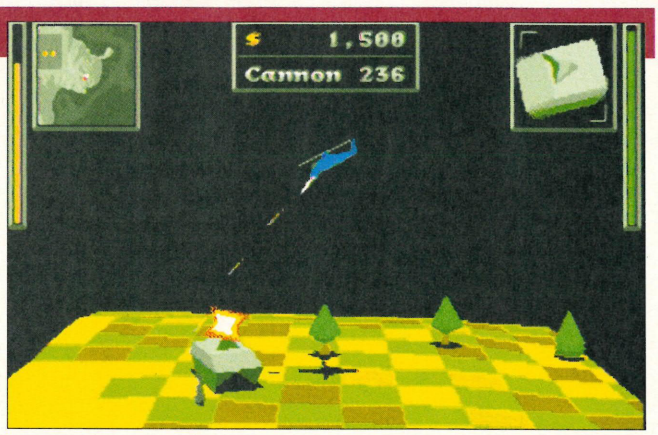
Level 1	ETQFJXXD	Level 4	FYQQPXEF
	EXQEJXDC		GCQCRXWB
Level 2	FBQDDXRE		GGQKTXVF
	FFQCVXIA	Level 5	GKQJYXDI
	FJQCHXOM		GOQJFXBK
Level 3	FNQAYXHI		GSQFDXZA
	FRQYCXVL		
	FUQTBXQE		

Zeewolf

Level codes! What a surprise!

Shark Fishing	IMAGO
Pal in dome	TIBUROW
Twenty angry men	ARGUS
Mind the hippos	MARTEN
Brass Rumblings	SOCKIN
Red airing	GANNPAY

Pointless but true: type in FRAMPAGE on the password screen to fly an ever-so-slightly superior plane instead of the old 'copter.



Get-out clauses

Stuck on a particular game? Martin Shenton (our resident work experience lad) helps you out of your pit of despair

Top Gear 2

I've heard of annoyingly long and complicated level codes before, but this is ridiculous. It's bad enough for the gamesplayer, but I have to spend years checking them as well. AAAARGH!

One Player (sigh..)

Britain	)PN) +V$L PN13 47G%) 743HH
Canada	HLF6 8JHJ GBLV 23J+T MHG66
Egypt	)FB3 55#2 HNPB M3T5) 521FF
France	T65W 2B%Y $B4R M34DQ FB%11
Germany	HLF$ B2$R JNR$ 3M977 521FF
Greece	GPLC GLG$ MQTN %4HFF C+$WW
India	WNJB FHY6 %34V G9PMM JFD44
Ireland	51FS B#5L#FTR 8(RTT B$)VV
Italy	C1G+ C%DV G6 PC3Y3 JFD44
Japan	G9NF J22(P%RL $GM46 NJH77
Scandinavia	J2F$ BMLQ CQ%J)FL35 MHG66
South America	CG#4 7F6D YBHC T#+52 NJH77
Spain	$C82 5Q1T (MV9 84#1V HDC33
Switzerland	%7VM Q$5Y 2NPV %2TFB 743HH
USA	WQ%9)P6G HLM4 2QVYT GCB22

Two players (no, please, nooo)

Britain	6$BJ #D1$ HMMW 34L%V NJH77
Canada	L+G3 LCBQ 38QT 12H$R LGF55
Egypt	L2QB 59B2 N#91 C7N%T PLJ88
France	%VRC GRF4 5BDD)67MY TPN((
Germany	(CB5 PYLW QPP7 1QR$H D%+YY
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USA	82NW 14HF QLQF 6N3GF#76MM

Alien Breed

Press CAPS LOCK on the player select screen and it's extra lives ahoy!

Alien Breed

Let's face it – this game is hard. Don't panic:

Level 2	353828
Level 3	108383
Level 4	L370101
Level 5	982822
Level 6	847464
Level 7	737373
Level 8	928122
Level 9	267364
Level 10	193831
Level 11	090921
Level 12	309838
Level 13	101221
Level 14	103992
Level 15	998112
Level 16	125332
Level 17	091233

K240

Type these on the main view screen then press return;

ICBM	get four of every satellite and missile! Wow!
SKYSCRAPER	cuts down that construction time
LOADSADOSH	hmm...I wonder what this one does...
TELESCOPE	shows all the asteroids
LEMING	adds 50 to the population
ICEMAN	stops all the asteroids, literally!

Robocop 3

Hold down right shift and type THE DIDDY MEN in the game to become invincible. After this you can press Esc to skip to the next level.

Beavers

When this cheeky little game begins, type BIGBIG-BIGB and you can skip levels by pressing F2.

Mr Blobby

Why Millennium thought they needed that fat pink blob of pure evil to promote this perfectly good game is beyond me, but here are the codes if you need them:

Level 1	BABE
Level 2	OOAH
Level 3	DAKD
Level 4	EMEA
Level 5	FLAF
Level 6	GGAK
Level 7	HAAJ
Level 8	BAJM
Level 9	DASL
Level 10	FTAN
Level 11	GOAS
Level 12	AAOB
Level 13	OOBI
Level 14	DBLD
Level 15	ENEB
Level 16	FMBF
Level 17	GGBL
Level 18	ALKB
Level 19	BBJN
Level 20	OKBQ
Level 21	DBTL
Level 22	EVMB
Level 23	GOBT
Level 24	AADO
Level 25	OOOJ
Level 26	DOMB
Level 27	EOEO
Level 28	FNOF
Level 29	HOHL
Level 30	BOJO
Level 31	DOUL
Level 32	EWMO
Level 33	GOOU
Level 34	HOPT
Level 35	AAED
Level 36	BDBH
Level 37	OODK
Level 38	FODFHDHM
Level 39	BDJP
Level 40	DDVL
Level 41	EXMD

Virtual Karting

By Tina Hackett

OTM are a new company to the Amiga market and unfortunately their first game, Touring Car Challenge, left a black mark against their name, receiving pitiful review scores. However, their forthcoming release, Virtual Karting, looks likely to redeem their reputation and unlike most of today's rather predictable race-'em-ups, this title takes the form of a Go-Kart racing game.

Virtual Karting is fully texture mapped and aims for this latest 'virtual' style. Two views are available – a 2D overhead angle where you can zoom in or out, or a 'behind the kart' 3D angle. Both work pretty well so far and the 3D angle gives a good impression of speed, whereas the 2D overhead gives more of a tactical style of game.

There are three tracks available, one is the simple figure of eight style, another a taxing windy track, and the last one is for the experts only because as well as hairpin bends and sharp corners, you are in danger of falling into the water surrounding most of the track. Overall, three tracks do sound quite limiting, but OTM are promising update disks at a later date. Another limitation could be that it doesn't have a two-player head-to-head mode but even so, it still seems like a fun game that looks original.

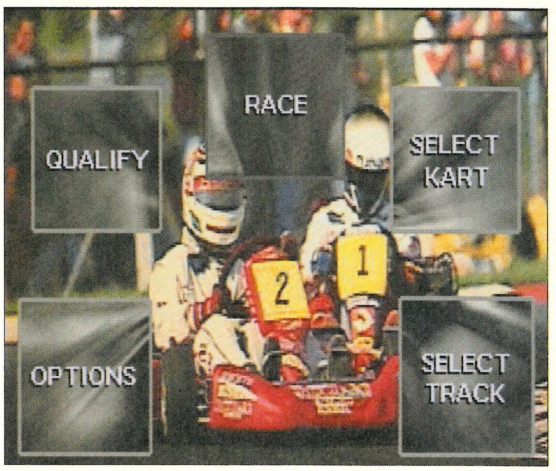
The gameplay feels very responsive at this stage and is easy to control. Game speed depends on your machine, and with a standard A1200 you can expect 25 frames per second. However, with an accelerator you can double this to 50 frames per second.

Sound effects are also fairly realistic and are close to the real thing, and a quite acceptable intro tune gives quite a polished feel. What also looks nice is a 'Fly-by' helicopter preview of the tracks.

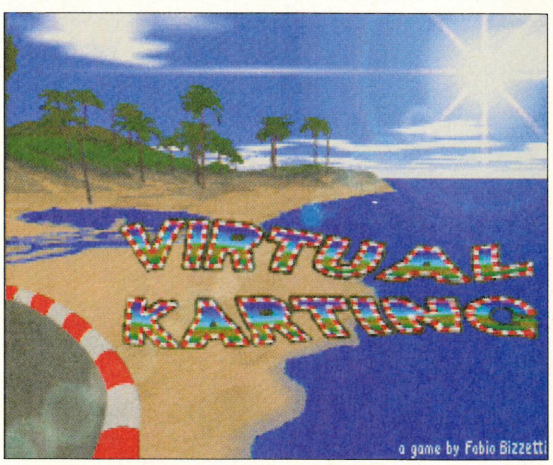
Control of the game is either by digital joystick, mouse, or analog joystick. The player can also choose whether to race in a 100cc kart or 125cc, and manual or automatic gears are also user-definable.

Unfortunately, the screenshots don't do the preview much justice. Due to the graphics mode they don't grab all that well, but they'll give you some sort of an idea anyway. The game is AGA only and is due for release this month.

> ' Virtual Karting is fully **texture mapped** and aims for this latest **'virtual'** style '

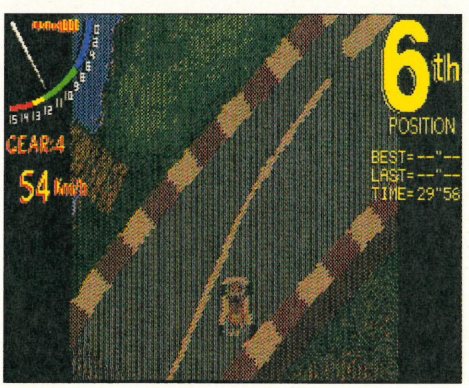


Options are quite generous although there is no head-to-head mode at this stage



Virtual Karting already looks quite professionally presented

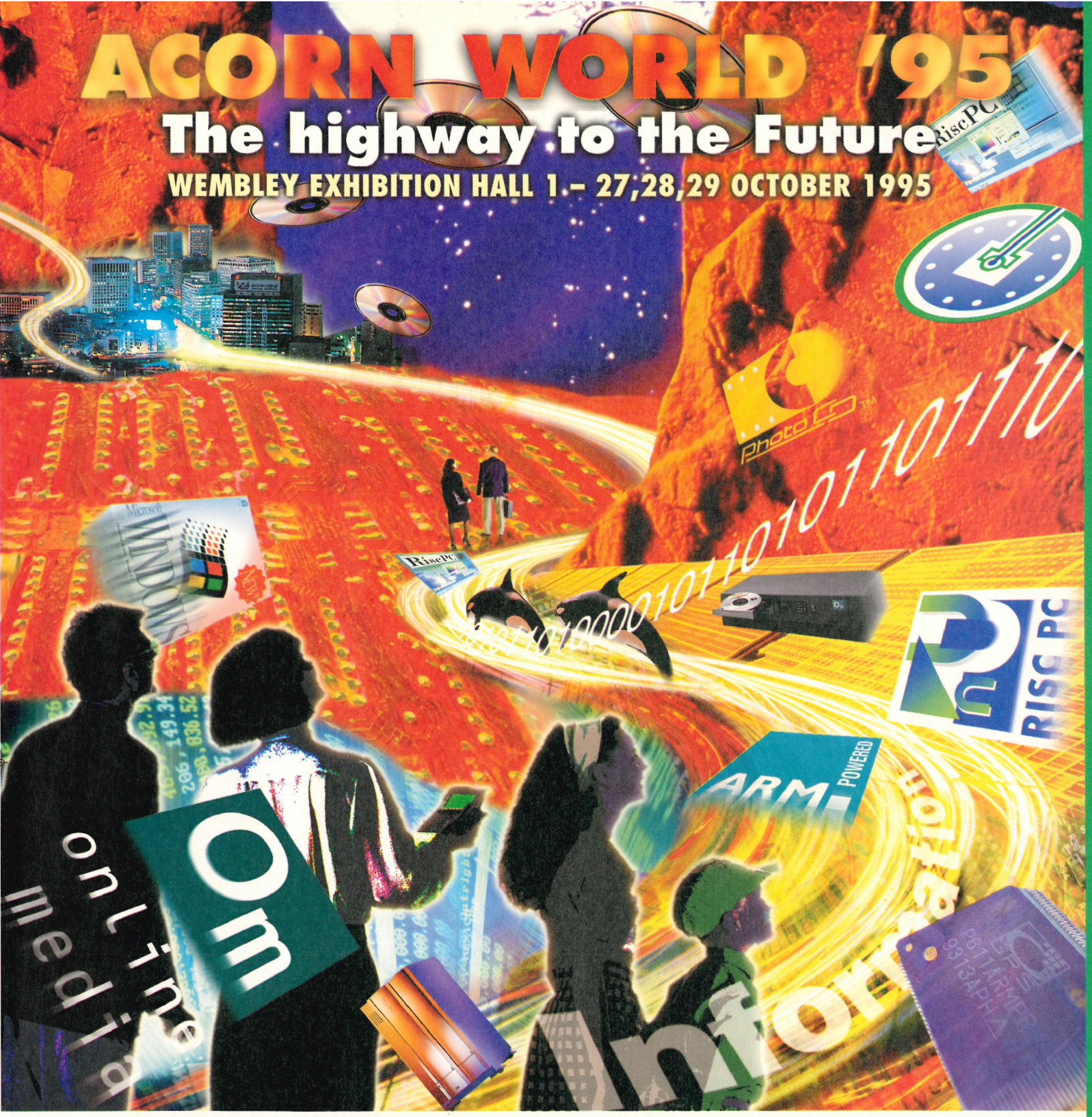
A 3D view will give an impressive feeling of speed



With the overhead mode you can zoom in or out

In the future

We are going to be seeing a lot more of OTM in the near future. Planned for late '95 is Starfighter, a 'ground breaking' shoot-'em-up. League Monitor is also in development and is a football application package which allows the user – either home user or professional club – to enter data. Features include full league tables, form guide, and results prediction. On the more serious side they are about to release PowerBase v3.5, their Amiga database package.



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Leading lap

By Andy Maddock

The polygon graphics that feature in the external views are looking quite spectacular

Since the success of Geoff Crammond's Formula One Grand Prix, Amiga owners have been crying out for a sequel. Unfortunately, it was announced it will only be developed exclusively for the PC. Now, a company willing to take on the challenge of creating a similar version are Kellion Software – a new company whose debut game is looking mightily impressive.

Leading Lap has been in development since December of last year. Almost 12 months have passed and hopefully they will have studied the competition and plan to try and attract the Christmas crowds as well as having the premium arcade racing game, stealing the crown from MicroProse.

You can see from the screenshots that Leading Lap looks like a jigsaw – put together by pieces of other racing games. Formula One Grand Prix, Hard Drivin' and Sega's arcade, Virtua Racing, all seem to make some kind of appearance, graphically.

However, the plot behind Leading Lap strays from these three. The idea is to race around many different European countries and gather enough points to top a league containing five other drivers. The drivers will have their own particular personalities and characteristics so obviously, there will be many budding computer-like Michael Schumachers out there.

There will be three areas to race around, namely the racing, country and city tracks, as well as three different cars – formula one, rally and endurance – and each one is graphically different from the previous.

The polygon graphics are looking particularly spectacular, and there is an option to change the detail from trees and bridges to large buildings.

> 'race around many different **European countries** and gather enough points to **top a league** containing five other drivers'

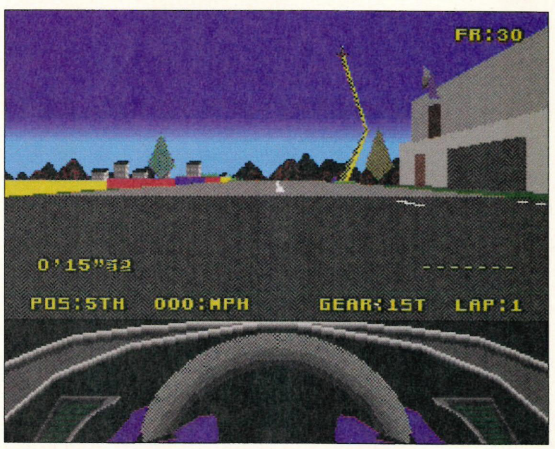
Final word

Another surprising aspect is the speed. It is probably one of the fastest games I have witnessed in this genre. Usually, to make a racing game fast the graphics are often sacrificed. Leading Lap contains high detailed background screens, while still managing to keep the speed at a realistic rate.

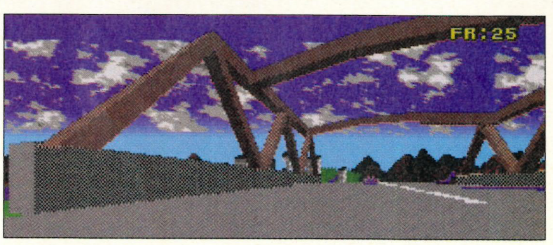
There are still a few tweaks that need to be made here and there, but so far, Kellion Software could present an offer that MicroProse Formula One Grand Prix fanatics just can't refuse.

You will also be able to set the angle at which the external view is observed. This enables you to change the view by the press of a button to see who is around you, whereas in Formula One Grand Prix, to see who is behind and in front you have to toggle the views awkwardly, and eventually you'd lose control of your own car. This option is present too, but it works far better.

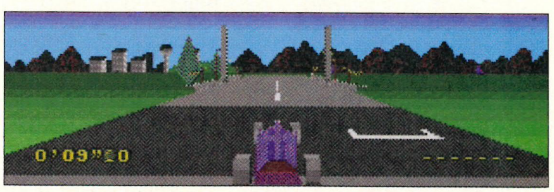
In Formula One Grand Prix, there are three different angles from which you can view the action. With Leading Lap there are more. You can view from inside the cockpit to anything up to a zoomed out view – much like Sega's arcade Virtua Racing. This particular arcade boasted all these angles and, surprisingly, Leading Lap is shaping up to look like a close Amiga version.



This is the view from inside the cockpit. As you can see, it's very similar to MicroProse F1GP



This screenshot proves what a graphical feast Leading Lap is going to be



The background scenery is looking quite varied with many trackside objects which hopefully won't slow the action down

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Magic labels

Amiga Medical Part 10

Frank Nord peruses some nifty labels in addition to the sage advice he dispenses

I don't know if you remember them, but there used to be these Magic Drawing tablets – they may still exist for all I know. You could write and draw on them with the supplied stylus, your fingernail or a twig – anything remotely pointy really. But the really groovy thing about them was the fact that once you had covered the entire area of the tablet, you could simply pull this integral slider across the surface of the tablet leaving you with a pristine surface on which to draw once more.

How does this relate to anything Amiga-based? Has someone developed a similar method for clearing the screen in DPaint? Well no. It's a bit more mundane than that. The Magic Drawing Tablet approach has been appropriated by a manufacturer called Re Mark It for their range of disk, video and message labels. You can write on the blue-ish part of the label using your fingernail or a twig or whatever, then, when you want to clear the message, you can put your finger on the green arrow (the green activator arrow according to the literature) to the left of the label and slide your finger across it to clear the label.

Now that's magic he says in his best Paul Daniels voice

The disk and video labels also have a permanent section on them for you to make your mark on for posterity, and the message labels come in two varieties – a two line variant and a four line version. The disk labels come ten to a packet for £2.49, you get five video labels for the same price, and the small messages labels are £1.99 for four – the big message labels are slightly more expensive at £1.99 for only two. If you are interested in these, and I'm sure you are, then get in contact with the First Computer Centre on 0113 2319444 immediately to place your order.

Wasting space

So, onto other business. I think that this month I should tell you how to get rid of stuff, rather than putting new stuff onto your machine. So we will start with unwanted assigns. You know how you have a drawer assigned and you want to get rid of it, but AmigaDOS brings up an alert saying "Cannot delete blahdiblah, object is in use." Well, if you hit the Shell you can usually get rid of assigns by typing the assign name followed by dismount or remove, i.e.:

```
assign blahdiblah: remove
```

This will usually let you delete the offending directory. Use the Dismount option if it's a device you are trying to get rid of rather than an assign. Alternatively, if you have the assign made in your user-startup script, you can always remove it from there and then reboot. Assigns aren't usually too problematic to get rid of, but there are other items that might chew up memory that you would do well to sort out.

The most important of these is undoubtedly your ENVARC: directory. Numerous programs use ENV: to store settings and preferences, programs that you might no longer use. The only way to make sure you aren't wasting valuable system resources is to trawl through ENVARC: periodically to check for offending items.

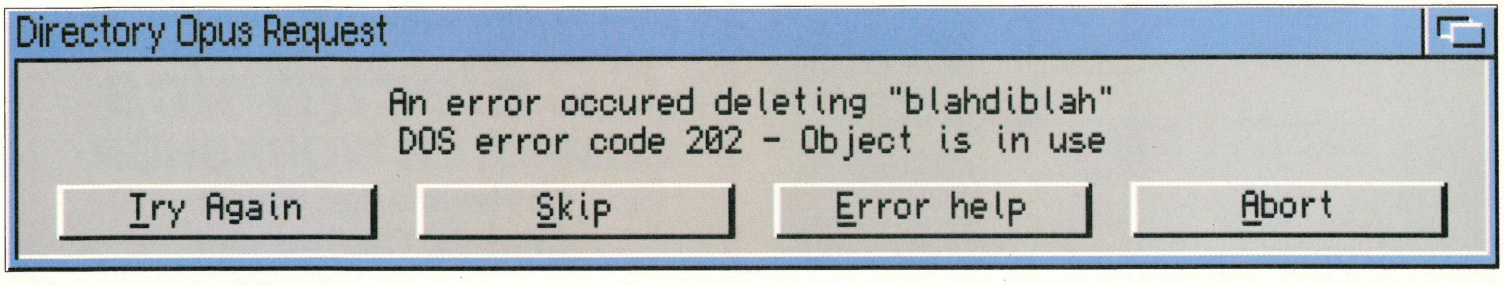
If you are using a file manager like DOpus or Diskmaster you can easily get to envarc: by bringing up an assigns list. If you don't have a suitable file management program, you can do the same stuff by opening a shell window and cd'ing to ENVARC:. If shell frightens you, then the last method of getting there is to go into your prefs drawers on your boot disk (usually called DH0:, HD0: or Workbench:) and have a look for a drawer called env-archive. This probably won't have an icon so you'll need to show all files from the Window menu on Workbench first.

Anyway, by whatever method you reach it you should eventually find yourself within the ENVARC: drawer. The only files that are really important in ENVARC: are contained within the sys drawer, but that doesn't mean you can go deleting all the other files willy nilly. The files in the Sys drawer are all your Workbench preference settings, like the font your Workbench screen uses, its resolution, number of colours, etc.

This is very useful to know if you make a mistake and save something in Prefs that you can't use – for instance a DBLPAL screenmode on a 1084 monitor. If you have done that then the best you can hope for is a black screen, but you might damage your monitor. The thing to do is to boot without a startup-sequence and cd to sys:prefs/env-archive/sys and delete the file screenmode.prefs. Then you can happily reboot once more, safe in the knowledge that your Workbench will boot in four colours on a PAL Hi-res screen which will be happily displayed on your 1084.

Sometimes the preferences stores in ENVARC: are held within their own drawers inside ENVARC: – this makes it really easy to see what you are doing. If this isn't the case, you can always move the questionable files elsewhere and reboot to see if the files are required by any of the programs currently running on your machine.

Obviously, you will need to run the programs you have on your drive to be able to check whether the files you have moved are needed.



Time to 'assign remove' I think...

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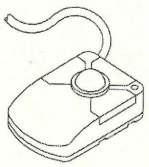

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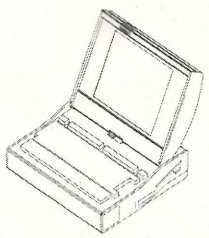

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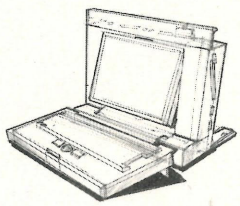

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Cover version

Amiga 3D Part 7

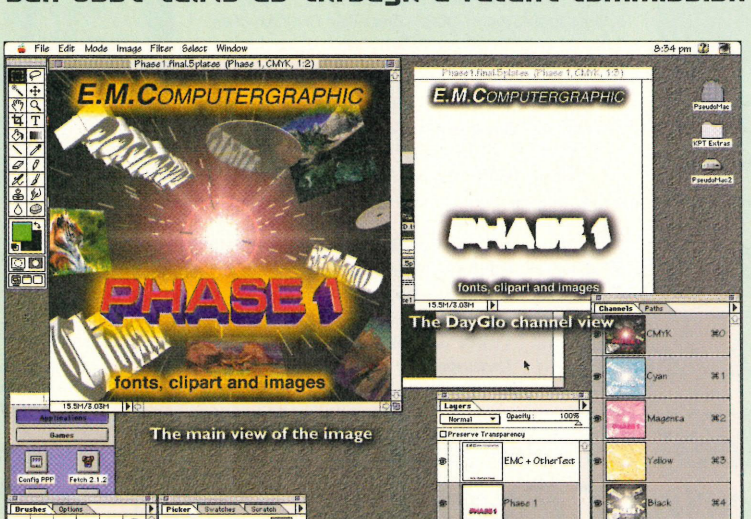
Ben Vost talks us through a recent commission

My good friend Errol at EMComputergraphic approached me a while ago and asked if I could produce some cover artwork for his upcoming CD-ROM release. I agreed and he sent me some sketches of what he thought would be nice. I played around with the concepts he gave me and decided that LightWave would probably prove the best solution for the building blocks of the final image.

The initial text 'Phase 1' was the first thing to deal with. LightWave actually provides good facilities for converting PostScript type 1 typefaces into 3D objects, albeit not quite as nice as Imagine's for a change, so rather than having to build the text from scratch I simply loaded the appropriate font (Jupiter from the Safari Fonts collection that EMC sells) and extruded it.

I decided to bevel the text as it looked a bit bland and flat. At this point I checked with Errol to see what he wanted in terms of texturing for the text, and surprisingly, he went for my first choice which I had merely selected for a test render. All this was was a slightly glossy red for the front, the sample texture Bumpy Chrome with the bump map removed for the bevel, and the sample texture Gradient for the sides of the letters.

I did several test renders of the text at different angles, but decided it still looked too flat, so I changed the focal length of the lens to distort the end result a bit more. Errol didn't like the jaunty angle I first put the text at, so we settled on the flat front, but tipped back style that graces the cover now.



Caption required

For the background, which was rendered separately, I set up a scene using the random stars object which comes with LightWave, a pair of lights (one to provide a fill, the second for the lens flare) and some objects. These objects were based upon the content of the CD-ROM and consisted of several pictures and objects made from fonts.

RATIOS AND EFFECTS

To retain the aspect ratio of the pictures, I made their object the same size in centimetres as the pictures were in pixels. I distorted the lens for the camera once more, although not to the same extent I had used for the text, and shifted the camera back a bit. To get the stretched out star effect, I turned on particle blur and gave it a high percentage, then I jumped to frame five and moved the camera back towards the centre of the scene. At the same time I brought the text and picture objects out from the centre to see if motion blur would look nice. Unfortunately, motion blur looked anything but nice, but the particle blur seemed to work really nicely.

I composited the Phase 1 text onto a Lo-res preview of the background so that Errol could get some idea of what I was trying to do. He liked the base idea but suggested some improvements, including a couple of flying CDs to go onto the cover to ram home the point of the artwork. So I re-rendered. Eventually, through trial and error, we came to agree how the end result would look.

Now that I had completed the building blocks for the image, I rendered them once more, this time at a higher resolution. Because a CD cover isn't all that large, I only rendered the images at 'high' resolution, rather than 'print.' This obviously took a lot less time to render, hopefully without showing in the final print. I ended up with an image that was about a thousand pixels square for the background.

I had done the early compositing in ADPro, which was fine for the purpose at that level, but for the final artwork I decided to fire up Shapeshifter and use Photoshop on the Mac. Photoshop is what ImageF/X should, and perhaps will, be. The most important feature for me was Photoshop's facility for multiple, independent layers in the same picture. This meant I could have separate, discrete elements, like the Phase 1 logo, the normal text that appears on the cover, the background, and the glow as individually editable pictures.

This allowed me to play around with scaling the Phase 1 logo and its placement on the background, without needing to keep reloading the picture. I also resorted to using Quark XPress for the layout of the CD on the page because PageStream **still** cannot print separations (a really serious fault for a professional DTP package, I kid you not).

So there you have it. From original sketch to completed image in less than a page. I only wish it was as painless a process to create the image as it was to write about it. That having been said, I did have a lot of fun doing the work and if you wish to see the end result, I can only suggest you boost EMCs coffers and buy the CD for yourself.

Caption required

Things to note

Looking back at the image I produced, there are certainly some things I would try if I had had the time (and might attempt for Phase 2, 3, etc. if Errol lets me). Firstly, I probably wouldn't make the cover a space theme again. Everybody uses the same sort of imagery, and lens flares are getting so clichéd these days. The second thing is that I might have relied more on Photoshop to speed up the rendering process. Motion blurs, lens flares and lighting effects are all easy to achieve in Photoshop and take a lot less time than the effects rendered by LightWave.

Having said that, I wasn't overly hampered by a deadline for this commission, so I didn't need to save time. Lastly, it pays to try and extend your software collection. Had I only been able to use LightWave and ADPro for this cover image, it would have been a lot more bland than it currently is.

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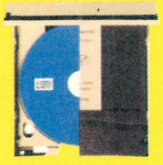

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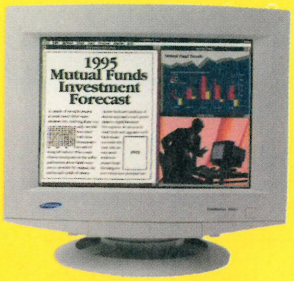

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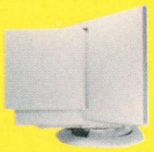

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A splash of paint

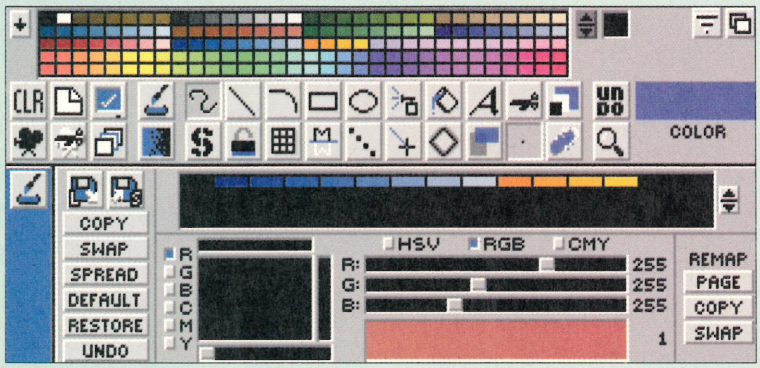
Amiga 2D Part 1

Steve White explains how you can join the artistic masterclass and improve your desktop graphics techniques

The aim of this tutorial is to help you get the most out of your paint package and as a result, show you how to design great pictures and animation.

I will be demonstrating how you can create realistic looking backgrounds – including natural backgrounds, choosing the correct colours and spreads, preliminary design techniques, brush manipulation, special effects, animation techniques and much more.

Although most of the screenshots in this tutorial are taken from Brilliance 2.0, the subjects covered will also apply to those of you with Deluxe Paint or Personal Paint. I have used terminology employed across all these packages so you can find the appropriate reference in the manual.



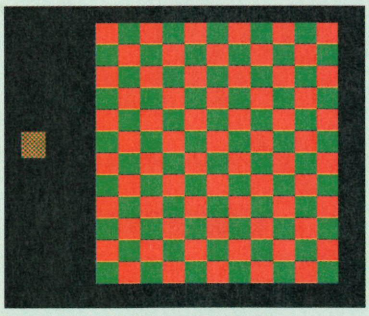
Creating the right colours is the first step in any graphics venture. Use them wisely or suffer the consequences

ROUGH SKETCH

The first step when designing any computer-oriented artwork is to make sure you have a rough on paper from which to work from. By designing on paper first, you can easily correct and enhance your scene without wasting precious time in your paint package.

When you are happy with your design, you should write down what colours you will need and any spreads that may be required. A spread is a range of colours blended between a start colour and end colour. You may want to create a spread of greys, in which case you simply select your start colour (black probably), select Spread, and then click on the end colour (white). Your paint package will automatically fill in the slots between start and end with the appropriate colours.

Obviously, those of you with AGA machines will be able to create more extensive spreads, allowing for smoother transitions between colours. However, more colours invariably means more work, although the finished artwork will look better than a 16 or 32 colour image.



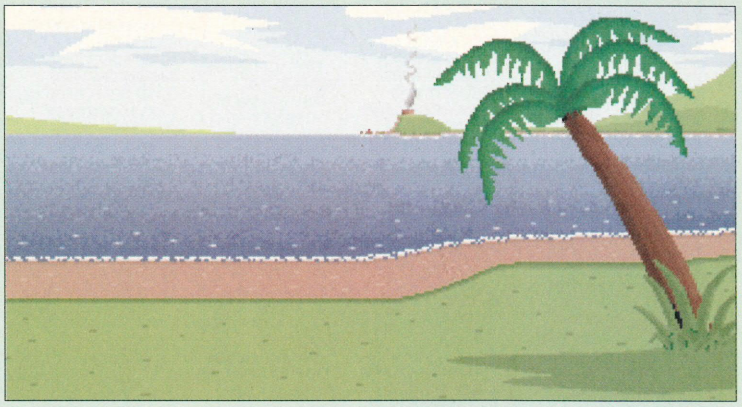
By using dithering techniques you can build a third colour from two other colours and ease the strain on your palette

COLOUR SELECTION

For those of you with non-AGA machines, the task of colour selection is a more difficult one and you may find your scene doesn't lend itself too well to 16 or 32 colours. If you also require spreads, you may even have to consider HAM (Hold And Modify) mode which is extremely slow in Deluxe Paint. Remember that it is the foreground elements of your design that are of most importance – a background can easily be covered by just a single colour, two at the most.

One way to falsely create colour transitions (spreads) is to use dithering. Dithering works by creating a chess board pattern made up of two colours. Due to the resolution, the effect fools the eye into thinking its seeing a new colour. If you dithered red and white it would look like pink, green and red appears as brown. If you don't own an AGA machine it may be a worthwhile exercise to actually create an image with different colour dithering to see which combinations work best. When you think you've got your palette right, save it out.

Although it's tempting to start your design with the foreground, the best place to start is the background. The background is invariably the simplest element in design and can act as an incentive to finish the picture off (one of the toughest disciplines in computer-design is patience). It also acts as an excellent reference for your foreground elements and you may even find better positioning than you originally anticipated.



There are two styles of natural background – realistic and cartoon. Whichever you choose, they both dictate the style of foreground graphics

Don't go spare

One of the most useful tools in any paint package is a Spare page, normally accessed with the J key. While designing backgrounds you can use the spare page to test different effects before applying them to the work page. In fact, the spare page proves such an invaluable page that I regularly save mine so that useful bits and pieces can be retrieved whenever I need them.

The real world

Probably the most frightening type of background is a natural one. The sea, land, rock, sky, desert and snow are all natural backgrounds that make artists cringe. The problem with natural backgrounds is that critics won't allow for mistakes. If it's the inside of a spaceship or building you made up it doesn't matter what people say, because it's your creation.

There are two ways to design natural backgrounds and both work equally well. You can go for the realistic design in which you attempt to accurately recreate the background as much as possible, or opt for the more cartoon look, using less colours and taking less time.

If done correctly, both look impressive, but you must remember that they also dictate the foreground style to some degree. If you create a complex background with many colours then you'll probably have to do the same with the foreground elements. Therefore, for those of you with non-AGA machines it may prove a sound decision opting for the cartoon-style background.

In the next issue I will be explaining in detail how to go about designing natural backgrounds – both realistic and cartoon. I'll also be taking a look at Gradients and how they can speed up the background process.

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How to expose yourself!

This month I'm adding the finishing touches to the skeleton form-fill script we've been working on in recent issues and tackling the last remaining problem area, namely the need to define identical 'pseudo-constant' terms in any procedure that uses them.

Defining an ARexx function as a procedure is, for the most part, a good thing to do because variables and data used within that function then become local to the function (so cannot be modified by anything that happens in other areas of the code). In short, the function gets its own 'execution environment' and, as scripts get larger, this procedural isolation becomes increasingly important.

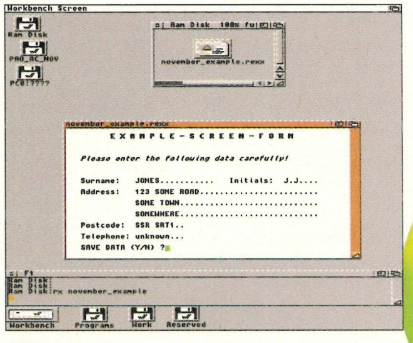
The difficulty, you may remember, is that there are times when you'd actually like to have a few items of data shared between routines that have been marked as procedures, and this is particularly so with variables that have been set up to provide static, i.e. pseudo-constant, data. Listing 1, for example, shows two of the routines from last month's code which both require their own CSI (control sequence introducer) variable definition.

As far as ease of maintenance etc., is concerned, it would, of course, be far better if that CSI definition existed in just one place in the program! One solution to this dilemma would be to define such items at the start of the program and then pass the required variables as function parameters. This approach is fine if you've only got one or two terms that may need to be shared, but it would get very cumbersome if many items were involved.

As you probably know, ARexx provides an 'Expose' keyword which provides another pathway for making particular variables 'visible' to a procedure. My approach for making static variable definitions available to a procedure is based on this keyword, but it's not just a matter of explicitly exposing each of the variable names in turn – it involves the use of ARexx's compound variables.

By defining a suitable stem and using this as the basis for all static definitions, all that needs to be done to make the whole set of pseudo-constant variables 'visible' to a procedure is to make the stem itself visible using a single 'Expose' declaration. I tend to use the stem name 'g.' (g for 'global') for these types of applications, and listing 2 shows the set of constant terms you'll find in this month's CoverDisk example. You'll notice, when you compare this month's code to that given in the October issue, that this technique slightly reduces the size of the procedures. This, however, is not where the real benefit lies. The real advantage is that we end up with all pseudo-constant definitions defined in just one place within the source, but eliminate the need to pass or expose lots of individual variables.

Stem exposure is then an extremely useful method for making suitably defined data sets available to a procedure. Another change made in this month's example code (you'll find the full script on the CoverDisk) is that the DisplayForm(), ClearForm(), ReadForm() and SaveData() functions have now also been rewritten as procedures, and you'll notice that I've been able to make the whole set of field definitions available to these procedures by just exposing the f. stem.



The display may look the same but underneath the surface some significant code changes have been made

```
CursorWrite: Procedure
parse arg window,r,c,text$
CSI = '9b'x
call Writech(window,CSI||r||'3B'x||c||'48'x)
call Writech(window,text$)
return

ShowInputField: Procedure
parse arg window,r,c,count
CSI         = '9b'x
call Writech(window,CSI||r||'3B'x||c||'48'x) /* position cursor */
call Writech(window,Copies('.',count))
return
```

Listing 1: Because these two routines have been created as procedures they both need their own CSI pseudo-constant definition

```
g.TRUE              = 1
g.FALSE             = 0
g.CR                = '0D'x
g.BACKSPACE         = '08'x
g.SPACE             = '20'x
g.APPROX            = '7E'x
g.ESC               = '1B'x
g.CSI               = '9b'x
g.BACKGROUND        = g.CSI||'3e'x||'32'x||'6d'x
g.CELL_COLOUR       = g.CSI||'34'x||'32'x||'6d'x
g.INVERSE_ON        = g.CSI||'37'x||'6d'x           /* inverse video style command */
g.INVERSE_OFF       = g.CSI||'32'x||'37'x||'6d'x    /* inverse off command */
g.ITALIC_ON         = g.CSI||'33'x||'6d'x           /* italic text style command */
g.ITALIC_OFF        = g.CSI||'32'x||'33'x||'6d'x    /* italic off command */
g.BOLD_ON           = g.CSI||'31'x||'6d'x           /* bold text style command */
g.BOLD_OFF          = g.CSI||'32'x||'32'x||'6d'x    /* bold off command */
g.UNDERSCORE_ON     = g.CSI||'34'x||'6d'x           /* underscore text style command */
g.UNDERSCORE_OFF    = g.CSI||'32'x||'34'X||'6d'x    /* underscore off command */
g.SCREEN_PROMPT1    = g.BOLD_ON||'E X A M P L E - S C R E E N - F O R M'||g.BOLD_OFF
g.SCREEN_PROMPT2    = g.ITALIC_ON||'Please enter the following data carefully!'||g.ITALIC_OFF
g.SCREEN_PROMPT3    = 'SAVE DATA (Y/N) ?'
g.SCREEN_PROMPT4    = 'DO YOU WISH TO ENTER MORE DATA (Y/N) ?'
g.SCREEN_PROMPT5    = '                    '
```

Listing 2: The example program's static variable data set in its new stem based form

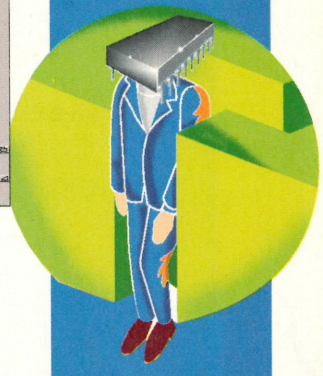
```
CursorWrite: Procedure expose g.
parse arg window,r,c,text$
call Writech(window,g.CSI||r||'3B'x||c||'48'x)
call Writech(window,text$)
return

ShowInputField: Procedure expose g.
parse arg window,r,c,count
call Writech(window,g.CSI||r||'3B'x||c||'48'x) /* position cursor */
call Writech(window,Copies('.',count))
return
```

Listing 3: The modified versions of the routines shown in listing 1

Coming soon

With the front-end form display code now complete, it is possible to envisage a number of uses for the routines we've developed. A questionnaire program or simple flat-file database utility are two applications that come to mind and, in a few months time, I'll be returning to the script we've built over the last few issues to explain how things like random access file handling facilities can be added.

For the immediate future, however, I suspect it is probably best if we allow some time for the quite complex ideas of recent instalments to settle for a while. Next month, therefore, I've got something totally different for you – a way of using a fully-fledged ASL file requester in your ARexx scripts with just a single line of code. Trust me – it's an issue that you must not miss!



That got your attention didn't it! Of course, what Paul Overaa is talking about this month is ARexx stem variable exposure, but you knew that didn't you

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Take me to your header

Phil South goes over the topic of search engines and why you should use one or more of them

The Internet is big. I don't really mean big, I mean BIG! It's got millions of files, it has millions of users. It has millions of home pages. How the blazing flip are you going to home in on the pages which take your interest if you can't find them. It's not so much like a needle in a haystack as a needle in a needle factory.

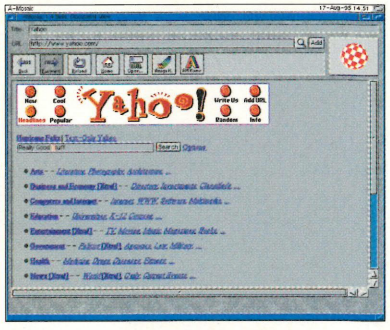
Fortunately, we have a little bit of technology on our side. Search servers, or search engines as they are sometimes called, take all the hard slog out of finding a link you are looking for. Want to find out all the Star Trek sites? Just type STAR TREK into a search engine and about 15 seconds later you have a hotlist of sites catering to the trekker tastes. Want all the sites about UFOs? Type UFO and you'll have more pictures and text about UFOs than Fox Mulder has in his downstairs privy. If you need anything on the Internet, a search engine is your man.

Most of the original search engines started out as lists of sites, just classified lists which enabled you to scroll through topics and pick off the ones which took your fancy. Now the Web has grown a thousand-fold since then and those old lists and lists of lists have grown a little bit long in the tooth. What was needed was a way to search the lists and give the user a sorted list of those entries only containing the keywords. This was possible using scripts which can generate HTML pages and squirt them to you at your browser, so sites like Yahoo and Lycos were born.

As the months go by, almost every list-based system has now moved over to a search engine, so you can pretty much guarantee that if a site exists, you will be able to find it within about 15 minutes of goofing about with search engines. In the old days it could have taken days.

So off you go to Search Engine Space and report back if you find any nice loony sites. I want to have a crazy site corner, and I'm looking for sites which make you laugh, cry, sick, make your hair stand on end, in fact make you do anything except go someplace else. Send your URLs to: Phil South, Comms Column, Amiga Computing, Media House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. Look forward to hearing from you.

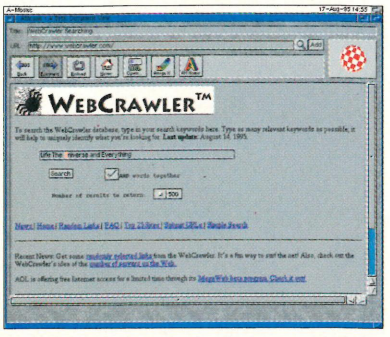
Some good starting points

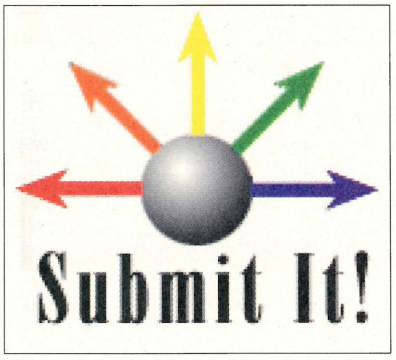


Yahoo – this is the fun one, and it has a lot of very cool links, as well as some very good serious ones. This should be your first stop, and if you get fed up with not being able to find what you want, then try some of the others.
http://www.yahoo.com/

Lycos – this is the big one, and I'm not talking about the Texas sale. The files here are huge, in fact they have a small one for people who haven't got all day, but the large one is the best for Wide Area searches.
http://www.lycos.com/

WebCrawler – a nicely laid out search engine, and some good features to steer you to the subject of your choice.
http://www.webcrawler.com/





Submit It! – if you need to publicise your own pages, then this is the place to do it, as it has automatic connections to almost every search engine on the planet. It is also a good source for finding out which search engines there are and where they hide. It's like a search engine for search engines. (Damn that's confusing...)
http://submit-it.permalink.com/submit-it/

Aminet – this is the best way into Aminet. The FTP route into WUArchive is always full, but the Web access is usually open. Either try this one or the German site, sometimes access is quicker to the European mirror.
http://wuarchive.wustl.edu/~aminet
or
http://www.uni-paderborn.de/aminet

Imperial College – the Premier UK FTP site, being a mirror of the Sunsite network, so if you have any other machines like Macs or PCs hanging about (or indeed hungry emulators needing software) this is where you can fill your boots with more software than anyone usefully needs.
ftp://src.doc.ic.ac.uk

ArchiePlex – this is an HTTP version of the Archie server, an old Internet thang which used to be the best way to search for files. This is a better way, but using similar technology. If you can't find a file then this is the one for you.
http://src.doc.ic.ac.uk/archieplexform.html

AliWeb – another Web page searcher. Not as dynamic as the others but occasionally it comes up with a link the others miss. A search engine is only any good if people post their web address to it.
http://web.nexor.co.uk/public/aliweb/search/doc/form.html

Richard G. L'Hommedieu, Jr. Home Page – although not a search engine as such, it does have the best collection of Amiga graphics links anywhere on the Web, as far as I can see. It's a well maintained site and Richard seems to know his onions. And 3D programs. And he looks good in a dress. (I was kidding about the dress part.)
http://www.pb.net/~limg

3D Objects Links

1. Thee Computer Animation Index
2. Tomahawk(Lightwave Objects)
3. 3D Object FTP Sites
4. 3d site
5. USGS Geo Data(DEM FILES!)
6. NewTek,Inc. Home Page
7. Silicon Graphics Home Page
8. ChinaLake 3d Objects
9. GREAT FTP for Objects/textures
10. ViewPoint Datalabs Quality Objects for sale
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12. Graphics Software Archive

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We have seen almost every Amiga CD title in existence and sadly, the general trend appears to be "shovel as much data on as possible and to hell with the quality" The majority of these CDs are also developed as multi platform CDs and while this may advantageous for the company selling them, the end user is faced with a CD containing a high proportion of files that he probably can't even use. So what is left?...a CD containing loads of badly organised directories filled with low quality (in some cases even pathetic) graphics. Being a little dissapointed, the user then looks in the font directories and finds...a massive task on his hands...he has hundreds of fonts (that are probably duplicated many times) and no way of knowing what he's got! The poor end user is then literally forced into loading every individual font into an application, just to see what fonts he's actually got! If that wasn't bad enough, he then, quite possibly, discovers that most of the fonts have missing and/or corrupt files!

Some of these so called CD developers even get away with "shoveling" data from their old CDs to new ones and releasing the new CD as "Professional" We could go on and on and on, but why bore you with something you already know? We genuinely feel that the current situation stinks and we at EMC are aiming to set the standard on which all data CDs on the Amiga will be judged. A big claim you say? Well, here's a brief insight to what will be included on the EMC CDs and how the data will be organised...

Firstly, these CDs are aimed directly at Amiga users, and are not designed for multi platform computer use. This means that you won't get CDs loaded with PC files that you cannot use! To aid in the rapid location of font, clipart & image data, each of the 3 CDs will contain...IFF font preview screens for EVERY font (regardless of it's format) you simply click on the preview icon to SEE the font! The clipart and image directories have been FULLY sorted and ALL directories include full IFF preview thumbnail index screens (and also descriptive filenames) Purchasers of the CDs will also have the option to buy a typeface book, published especially for the EMC CDs, containing font printouts!

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The second disk - ***EMC PHASE 2*** - will be released on...***Monday 6th November 1995***

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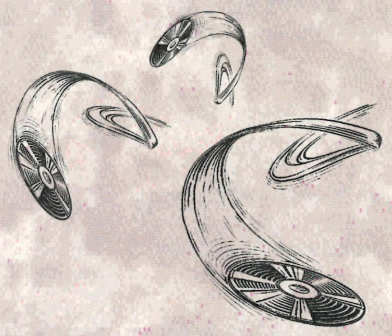

PHASE 2

RELEASE DATE: **6th November 1995**

FONTS Adobe Type1 EMC volumes 17, 27, 29 & 77
CG (with postscript & .atc files) EMC volumes 25, 26, 30, 31 & 82
Colour EMC volumes 48 & 49 and 71 Imagine compitable Type 1 Fonts

CLIPART Fully sorted into sub-directories (number of directories listed in brackets)

IFF	Alphabet(4),Borders(16), Buildings(6), Cartoons(17), Computer(7), Education (5), Electric(6), Food (90), History (5), Natural (59), Space&SciFi (3)
IFF Col	Fruit, World Maps (of every country on Earth!), Ships. Vegetables
GEM	Arrows & Stars, Borders, Buildings, Clipart, Office, OtherStuff, Photo, Transport.
IMG	Animals, Cartoons, Food, OtherStuff, People, Plants, Sports, TheArts, Transport, Xmas.

IMAGES in IFF 16/256 colour and Ham interlace formats
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PHASE 1

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and 52 IFF Clipfonts

CLIPART Fully sorted into sub-directories (number of directories listed in brackets)

IFF	Animals (114), Fantasy(27), Music(12), People(73), Religion(12)
IFF Col	Birds, Cars, Cats, Dinosaurs, Dogs, Fish, Horses, LionKing, Music, Planes, Reptiles.
EPS	Animals, Buildings, Computers, Food, Logos, Office, People, Transport, USA, World.

IMAGES (in IFF 16 colour, Ham interlace and IFF 256 colour formats)
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PHASE 3

RELEASE DATE : **January 1996**

FONTS Type1 EMC volumes 78, 79, 80 & 81
CG (with postscript & .atc files) EMC volumes 83, 84, 85, 86 & 87
Pagestream EMC volume 3, 200 IFF colour Clipfonts
and all our previously unreleased Type1, CG and ColourFonts

CLIPART Fully sorted into sub-directories (number of directories listed in brackets)

IFF	Events (45), Military (26), Misc (33), Sport (37), Transport (35), Work (37) and World (41)
IFF Col	Flowers, Insects, Mammals, Trees, Xmas.

IMAGES (in IFF 16 colour, Ham interlace and IFF 256 colour formats)
Bikes (Motor), Boats, Castles, Cats, Classic Cars, Dungeons and Dragons, Dr. Who, Star Trek (DS9), Fractals, Girls, Greece, Hunks, Heavy Metal, Italian Cars, Movies, Robots, Starwars, Waterlife, White, Woodroffe and over 67mb of 736 x 566 Video Backdrops in IFF 16 & 256 colour formats.

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...if you are looking for poorly organised CDs filled with low grade clipart, graphics that can only be classed as pathetic and corrupt font files OR if you want CDs that are filled with PC files and padded out with lha and dms archives!

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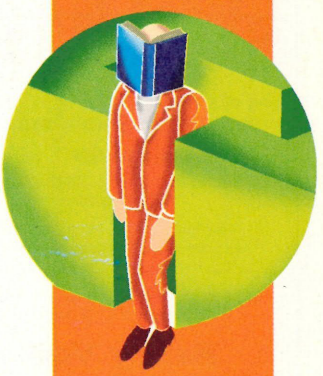
Bursting the bubble



Following on from the discussion a couple of months ago, Frank Nord looks at some structured clip art

Howdy folks. This month I'm going to take a break from the normal tutorial format of this column and have a look at a collection of structured clip art for Amigas. If you remember, back in issue 88 we had a look at the differences between structured (otherwise known as vector) and bitmapped clip art. We also had a look at the various formats supported by Amiga software, and the collection I am looking at today is all in EPS format. This means you should be able to use it in Final Writer, ProPage, PageStream, and many other packages. If your program is like ProPage, all you will see on screen is a box, but Final Writer and PageStream both have the ability to let you see the graphic as it really is.

Even if the software you use doesn't support EPS format clip art, all is not lost as Artworks – the company that produces the clip art – kindly supplies an IFF ILBM version of the clips for use in programs like DPaint and the like. The set Artworks have supplied me with is the second volume in a three set series – Badges, Banners, Bubbles and Bursts – but they have also sent me the manuals for the other two volumes, Frames, Corners, Strips and Motifs, and Signs and Symbols.

HIGH QUALITY

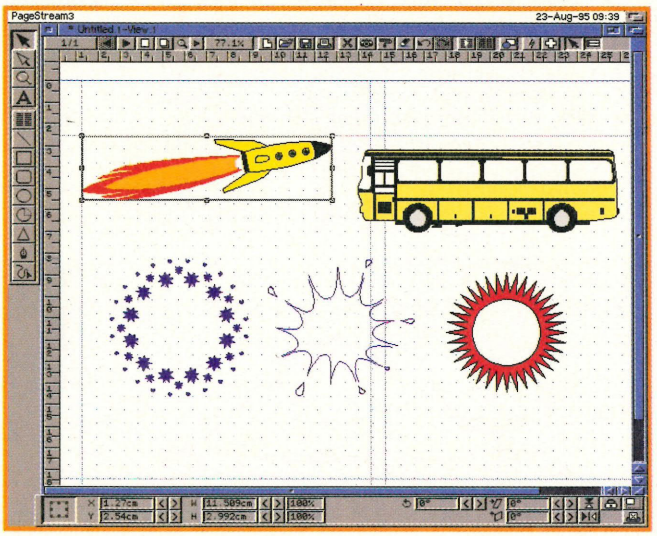
The quality of all the clipart in each volume is outstanding, with some very useful images – credit card symbols in the Signs and Symbols volume being particularly handy for laying out your own adverts, etc. Each volume is accompanied, as I have already said, by an eight-page manual which shows a greyscale printout of every clip included in each collection. The clips are organised into directories and then numbered, so you will need to make sure you keep the manual in a safe place if you are to have any idea which clip you are using.

Each volume also comes with useful advice for Final Writer users, explaining how to display a proper image rather than a cross box, and reminding the user that EPS images can take a long time to load and print for unaccelerated Amiga owners. Hmm, perhaps I should have said 'owners of unaccelerated Amigas' instead... no, I'll leave it the way it is.

The bitmapped versions of the clip art are somewhat disappointing as they are only usable at screen resolution. I was really rather hoping for big bitmaps that could be scaled down to print at printer resolution, but I guess Artworks is only really offering the bitmaps as a sop to Amiga owners not willing to part with the necessary dosh to get software that **is** EPS-compatible. The volumes are also available in ProDraw format for those who cling to Gold Disk's products, and each set retails at £19.95 singly or £17.50 if you buy two or more.

...And the first prize goes to Artworks

Another piece of software that recently hit my doormat which is partially related to DTP, but is also useful systemwide, is Gordon Fecyk's ATM. Yes, it's a system patch to allow any program to use PostScript type 1 fonts, but no, ATM **doesn't** stand for Adobe Typo Manager, Adobe being too shortsighted to allow Gordon to use their name. So ATM stood for Amiga Typeface Manager. But Adobe didn't like that, so now Gordon has changed the name to ATE – Amiga Typeface Engine**.**

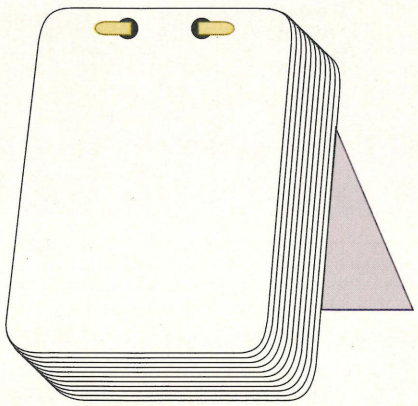


Travel, bursts, oh yes, it's all here

The patch uses the famous Post.library and is quite simple and transparent to all software that also works with CG fonts. And although ATE is still at a beta stage as I write this, it is actually faster than the way CG fonts get calculated and displayed. If you want to contact Gordon with a view to having a look at his software, or to express your support in his fight with Adobe, then drop him a line:
gordonf@freenet.vancouver.bc.ca

Lastly, there should be a datatype on our CoverDisk this month that will prove useful to desktop publishers. Datatypes are, of course, only usable if you have Workbench 3.0 or above, but since Workbench 3.1 offers some great advances over Workbench 2, especially for graphics card owners, I expect most of you reading the column will be able to use the datatype. The datatype in question allows you to view complete character sets for a font, a type preview if you will, and since you can save a picture out as IFF from Multiview, this tool should be a nice way of creating a library of type previews.

It is also very handy to check for the existence, or non-existence, of certain diacritic marks like copyright symbols, quotation marks and accented letters which are often not put into shareware fonts. Obviously, this datatype is really only for use with standard CG and bitmapped fonts, and I haven't had the chance to try it with ATE yet, but if it can deal with postscript fonts as well, it would be very handy. Of course, if you are running PageStream 3, you have still got the type preview macro to use for a high quality print out of all the postscript fonts in your system.



Calendar-oriented clip art comes in very handy when you are sending out memos reminding people about deadlines

Font o' the month

For a long time now it has been common practice in magazines that have a section devoted to DTP to have a font of the month, so from this month onwards, I will be looking for good, unusual or simply odd fonts to be included in the selection. This deal is open to anyone designing a bitmapped or outline typeface and extra marks will go to entries that incorporate a family of fonts. Send your fonts to Frank Nord, c/o Amiga Computing, Media House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP

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What's that pong?

Phil South shows you how to emulate cheesy old arcade game techniques

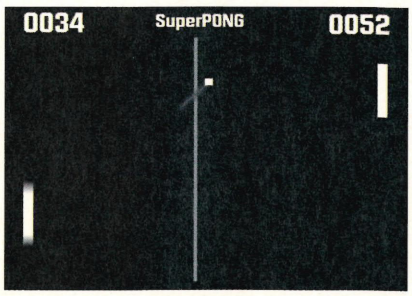
I'm always getting letters asking me how to do this or that in Amos, like 'How can I write a game of Defender?' or 'can you show me how to emulate the bouncing palls in Ping Pong?', or 'How do you do that trick with the characters de-rezzing in Robotron?' I tell you, it's a never ending struggle for sanity in this house. What is worse is that half the time, people don't want to know how to code, they want me to write the program for them and put it on the disk they send me. Forget it, buster! It's my job to teach people how to code, not do the work for them. Tsk! Some people.

But just when I was resolved never to do the dirty work for anyone again, I got a letter from an a Amiga Computing reader – R Bellows of Edinburgh – who asked: "I've tried as hard as I can to make a ball bounce around the screen like it does in Pong or those Arkanoid clones. How do you do it so it looks good?" Okay, all right, I give up. Here is my way.

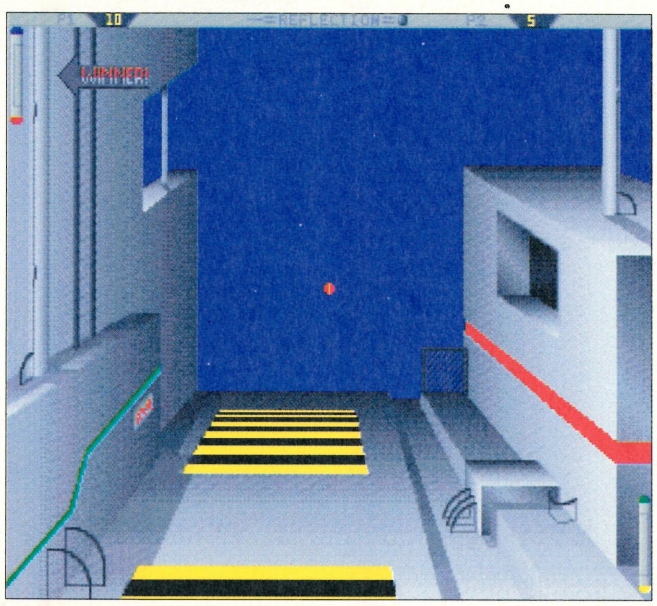
Pong, or Ping Pong, was one of the first games ever devised as a computer or video game, and it was certainly the first video game I owned, I don't know about you – but then I'm sad and old. The thing which always fascinated me about the game was the way the ball bounced around the screen. It seemed to simulate a real ball bouncing around, which of course is incorrect because real balls bounce in three dimensions not two. But as a 2D game of ping pong it wasn't at all bad.

It was quite a few years later that a friend of mine, I think it was probably Aaron Fothergill, showed me how to compute bouncing things with vectors. The example is as follows:

```
Curs Off : Hide : Flash Off : Cls 0 : Ink 4,4 :
Paper 0
Input "X Vector ";DX#
Input "Y Vector ";DY#
Cls 0 : Bar 0,0 To 3,3
Get Bob 1,0,0 To 4,4
Cls 0
X#=160 : Y#=100
While X#>0 and X#<320 and Y#>0 and Y#<200
          Bob 1,X#,Y#,1
          Wait Vbl
          X#=X#+DX#
          Y#=Y#+DY#
Wend
End
```



Pong was one of the first computer games



Ping Pong doesn't have to be just mono and two dimensional

You begin by specifying the start X and Y direction between -8 and 8, and this tells the sprite which way to go. Learning how the vectors behave in two dimensions is one way of learning how to compute them in 3D, which makes for some pretty fancy 3D game ideas.

A separate routine, which is sort of related to that, is the Flip Flop, where a value is flipped one way and back again. Try this:

```
X=1 : DX=1
Curs Off : Flash Off : Cls 0
Ink 4,4
Bar 0,0 To 15,15
Get Bob 1,0,0 To 16,16
Cls 0
Double Buffer
Do
  Bob 1,X,100,1
  Wait Vbl
  X=X+DX
  If X<=0 or X>=319
            DX=-DX
  End If
Loop
```

This is a simple example of bouncing a ball on the side of the screen. Add these things together and what have you got? A lot of code which doesn't go together to make a game? Yes, you'd be right there. But you have the seed of a game. You have a couple of processes that work. All you need to do is to put them together. You can't? Doh! Do I have to do everything? Okay...

You set the sprite off in a random direction from the centre of the 'court', okay. You do this simply by making the input values to the vector random. Next, you check the sprite via collision detection and checking the numbers:

```
X=0 or X=320
```

to see if it hits the bat or a goal line. If it hits the roof or the floor, the top and bottom of the screen, you simply flip the Y co-ordinate so it is going in the opposite direction. So imagine the ball is going up to the top at 45 degrees. Both the X and Y co-ordinates are increasing. Then the ball hits the side. Flip flop the Y co-ordinate and make it go down and the ball appears to bounce off the roof of the court.

Write stuff

If you have any other Amos programs or queries about Amos, then please write to the usual address, which is: Phil South, Amos Column, Amiga Computing, Media House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. Please send routines on an Amiga disk with notes on how the program works on paper, not as text files on the disk. Make the routines short enough to appear in print, i.e. no more than about 30-40 lines of code, and if possible make them use no external graphics. If they can't be used without them then be sure to provide them on the disk in native IFF format, and the same goes for sound files. Follow these guidelines and you'll be sure of making me a happy man if nothing else.

Okay, Pong me!

Let's see your Pong games then. Write a game based on the principles we've discussed, and write a simple Pong game. Add a scoring mechanism, a method of repeating rounds and starting a new game or finishing the game all together, and put it on a disk. It shouldn't be terribly long, so I'll print the best ones in a future issue. To give you a little incentive, the best one gets a copy of my book 'Mastering Amiga AMOS', and if you're particularly unlucky I'll sign it too. That'll teach you.

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A gem of a mixer

Paul Overaa takes a look at a sound mixer designed specifically for use with the Amiga

Most people would agree that, quality-wise, listening to internal sound-based music through most Amiga monitors leaves a little to be desired. The addition of multimedia-style speakers helps quite a bit but to be honest, some of the offerings currently available have quite limited tone control circuitry. This, coupled with the fairly mediocre speakers that are normally provided, usually means that even once you've added a separate speaker system there is still room for improvement.

In most cases, all that's needed to improve things are simply some better signal EQ (equalisation) facilities. Boosting the bass and treble end of a signal, for instance, can provide some extra 'punch' that brings music to life. If you can also control the signal level being fed into the speaker system, it's often possible to further improve the sound quality.

This is exactly where a unit called the Little Gem comes into its own. It's a small (7.5cm(W) x14cm(H) x3cm(D) two channel audio mixer that provides independent gain, high and low frequency boost and cut, and left/right pan controls. The two input and two output connectors are phono socket type (i.e. the same as the Amiga uses) so when using the unit for sound output control, it's just a matter of connecting the Amiga's sound terminals to the Little Gem via a stereo phono lead (not supplied) and connecting the Little Gem outputs to your existing multimedia sound system.

The unit itself is powered by a 9v PP3 battery and you do need to remember to switch the unit off after use, otherwise current will continue to be drawn. Mains operation is also possible via most everyday regulated power supplies, and the Little Gem will operate satisfactorily anywhere between 9-18 volts DC, and accepts any polarity.

The Little Gem mixer

And that's basically it – you place the Little Gem into your signal line and bingo, you instantly get much improved signal level and tone control. The other advantage of course is that you also get full control over left/right stereo panning which is particularly useful for removing hard left or right instrument panning in a song. If, say, all the percussion/drums or a bass line of a song had been placed on the left stereo channel, you could use the pan control to bring those instruments nearer to the centre of the 'stereo stage', in all likelihood producing a more natural overall sound output.

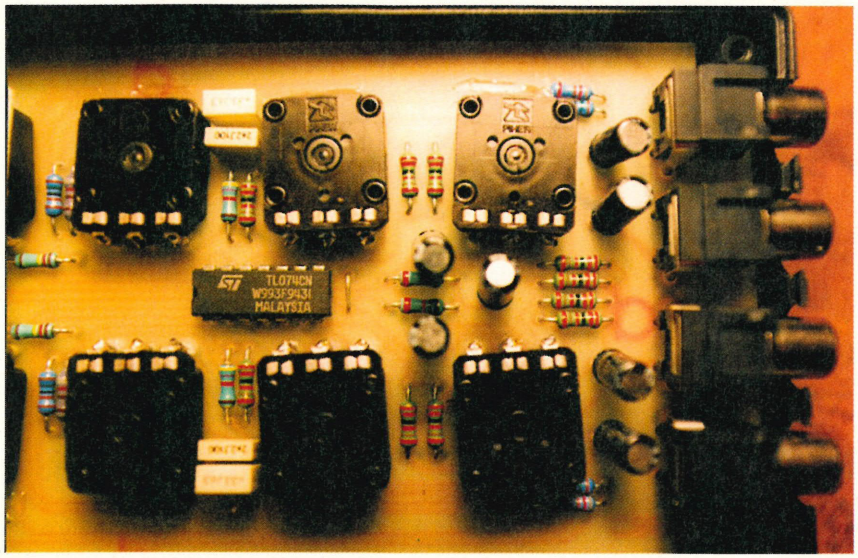
There are other uses for the Little Gem as well. Most sound samplers, for example, have little or no signal EQ facilities, so unless the sound source itself provides these, you're stuck with sampling whatever signal arrives at the sampler. Put the Little Gem between the source and the sampler, however, and you can then process the sound before it enters the sampler – and this often allows you to improve the quality of the resulting sample.

Though fairly expensive (relative to the prices of many of the Amiga sound systems around), the Little Gem has made a good impression. The construction inside is of reasonable quality and in practice the mixing circuitry works well. Equally important, the Little Gem has very low noise levels (in fact it's as good as some mixers costing ten times the price).

In short, if you have any doubts about whether you're getting the best possible output from your existing Amiga sound system or not, the chances are you aren't – and the Little Gem could provide the perfect solution!

What's it got?

- 2 channel in, 2 channel out
- Hi and lo EQ to +/- 12 dB
- Pan controls for stereo positioning of channels
- Battery or mains operation – takes no power from the Amiga
- Suitable for all Amiga models



The internal circuit board layout looks to be reasonably good

The bottom line

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Step into the light

Gary Whiteley explains basic lighting for 3D rendering

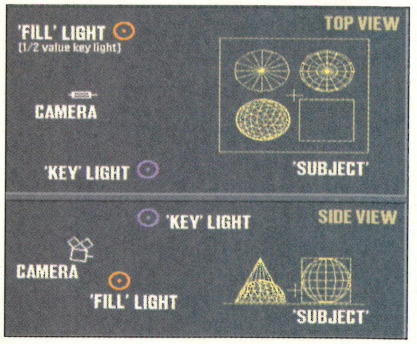
While 3D programs like LightWave, Real 3D and Imagine can flaunt the laws of Physics and produce scenes impossible in the real world, when it comes to lighting a scene realistically there's a lot to be learned from natural, as well as theatrical, film and television lighting.

In the real world, at least during daytime, there is one predominant light source – the Sun. The way in which it lights our world is affected by various factors such as the angle of the sun in the sky, cloud and fog (and, increasingly, pollution), objects casting shadows – be they trees, buildings or mountains – the angle an object presents to the Sun, the surface characteristics of illuminated objects, and the manner in which light enters buildings and other environments.

Unlike artificial lights, our relative proximity to the Sun and the strength of its light means there is little perceptible fall-off of the light intensity with distance, though of course like all real light sources, the Sun's light actually decreases in strength the further it travels away from its source.

The Sun, while really a 'point' source of light, can be regarded on Earth as a parallel light source because of the great distances involved. Parallel light sources emit rays which all travel in the same direction, hence the term 'parallel', and because of the great distances involved and the small area of Earth in relation to the Sun's light output, the rays which hit the Earth are effectively parallel rays. Sunlight is also scattered by the physical environment it passes through, including the atmosphere, providing an ambient light which adds a degree of 'fill' light to a scene. 3D renderers allow the user to define both 'normal' and ambient light sources.

Great-looking images can be obtained if you follow a few simple lighting rules



A basic Key and Fill lighting setup. Keep the ambient light to a minimum

So you can see that the simplest 'real world' situation can be lit with just a distant light source to represent the Sun and some ambient light to add natural fill. To enhance this a little, try adjusting the colours of the Sun and the ambient light away from the default white or grey settings. One interesting combination is orange-yellow sunlight (e.g. R255 G220 B150) and blueish ambient light (try R150 G150 B185), especially when shadows are also rendered. Experiment with other combinations to add a different mood to your renders.

Contact point

Gary Whiteley can be e-mailed as drgaz@cix.compulink.co.uk.

Artificial light

When it comes to interior scenes a new lighting pattern is needed, since the Sun is no longer likely to be the main light source, if indeed it is present at all. In this case we need to simulate the effect of the Sun with a 'Key' light (so-called because it is the main light source), but it is also usual practice to add one or more extra lights to provide fill to soften up the shadows caused by the key light and to enhance detail in the otherwise dark areas caused by using a single light source.

The key light is the brightest light source in the setup and is usually a point or distant (parallel) light source which is set to cast shadows. Place it to one side of the camera, about 30 degrees above and at a reasonable distance from the main centre of attention. The absolute distance of the key light from the subject depends on the strength of the light and the 3D package you are using. In Imagine, a distance of at least 1000 units for a R200, G200, B200 light is recommended.

The Fill light is around half the brightness of the key light, set on a level with the main subject on the opposite side of the camera to the key light, but at an equivalent distance from the subject. It is usual for this light to be set to cast NO shadows. Sometimes a second fill light will be placed behind and to the left of the main subject to provide more soft fill. Again, vary the colour of the lights away from the standard default settings for more interesting results.

Once the key and fill lights have been positioned, the rest of the room/environment can be lit accordingly. Perhaps there are wall or other incidental lights, or maybe a small window. These shouldn't contribute much to the main lighting setup but they should add interest to the background and illuminate the rest of the scene to produce the desired effect. You can also add some ambient light, but remember to keep it to a minimum to avoid flooding out your main lights.

There will be situations where the key light might be a large, well-lit window in a building, for example. In this case, position a fill light where it most effectively softens the shadows and yet still enhances the detail of the scene. Try different positions for the fill light until you find one which produces the most pleasing results.

Obviously, there are too many variations to go into here, so don't be afraid to experiment. If you want more ideas, use the resources of your local library and read up on film, theatrical and photographic lighting to get more insight into lighting your 3D worlds.

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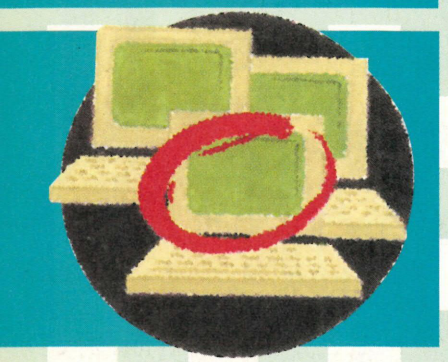

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Fast Computer Services 130
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G.T.I. 78
Gasteiner 65
Gillett Multimedia.....114
Grey Tronics 71
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H I Q 116
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ICPUG.....124
Kew = II.....124
Meridian 27
NJH Pd 103
Nucleus Direct.....118
On-Line Pd.....124
Owl Associates 103
PD Soft 84, 85
Petra Software 126
Power Computing .....IBC, 2, 3
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Siren Software 6, 7
Software 2000.....72, 73
Special Reserve.....13
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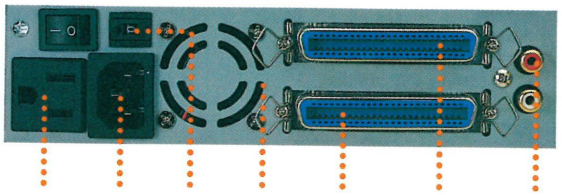

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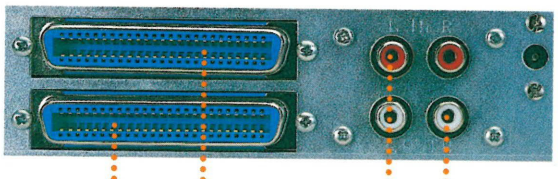

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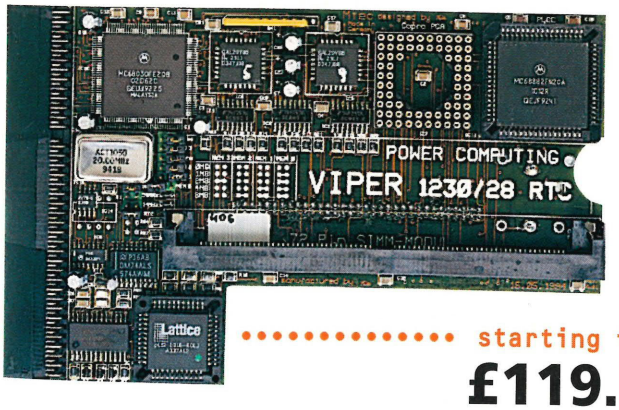

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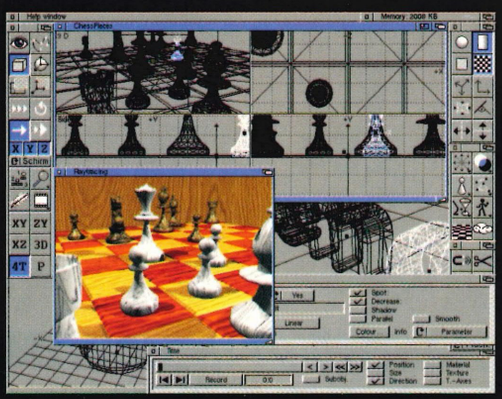

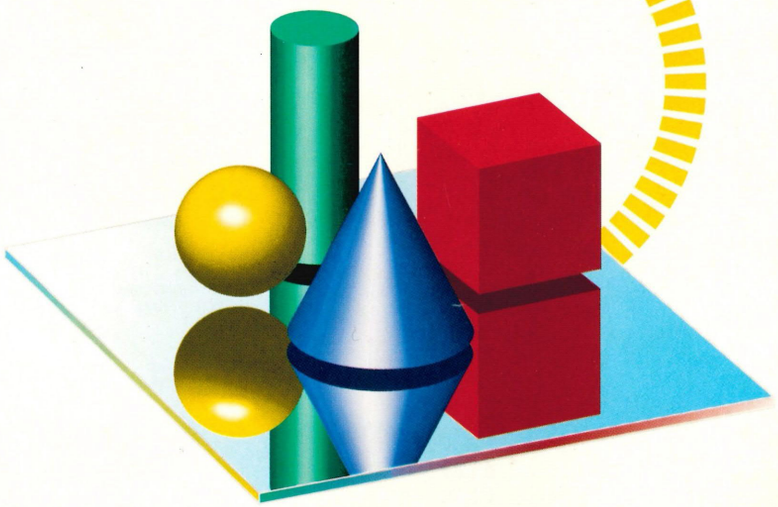

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